

Joker on Jose Pidal probe: We started it, we finish it

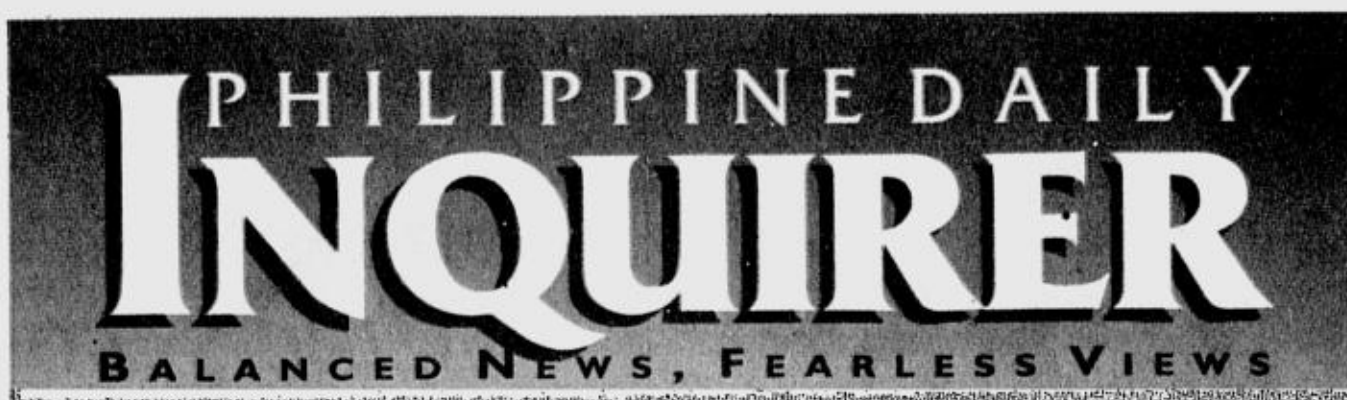
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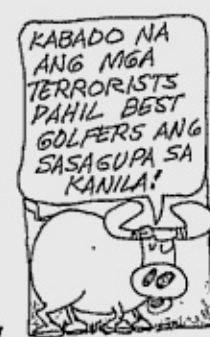
Saturday, September 13, 2003 ★★ 86 pages / 11 sections vol. 18 / no. 277 P15

PNP cops best golfers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE National Police may maintain jail cells with defective gates, but at least it sets the regional standard in one competitive category: golf. Judging by the results of the Asean

PNP COPS/ A17



website: www.inq7.net

16 hours of protest for 8-hr Bush visit

Guingona to support peace, unity activities

SIXTEEN-HOUR protest actions will greet the eight-hour visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18, two militant groups announced yesterday.

"Bush, who initiated a unilateral war of aggression against Iraq and who is also the current chief executive officer of imperialist globalization, doesn't deserve a dignified welcome in the Philippines," the Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas said in a statement.

The planned protest actions, which will take different forms, will start eight hours before the US president's scheduled arrival.

"Red banners will greet Bush on his way to Malacañang," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortalezza said, adding:

"Bush is coming to the Philippines, not for the sake of peace,

but to solicit continuing support for his wars of aggression, and to the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meeting in Bangkok for the sake of US corporations."

Fr. Joe Dizon of the religious advocacy group Kairos told the INQUIRER that Vice President Teofisto Guingona had "confirmed" his participation in a "vigil" to be mounted by a reactivated Stand For Peace (SFP) coalition on the eve of Bush's arrival.

The coalition was formed early this year by religious, academic and civic groups in condemnation of the US attack on Iraq, said Dizon, an SFP convenor.

16 HOURS/ A20



PEACE, unity and democracy. That's what President Macapagal and Vice President Teofisto Guingona prayed for during a rally organized by the Metro Manila mayors at the Rizal Park on Friday afternoon.

Elaborate security plan for most powerful man

LOCAL authorities are laying out an elaborate security plan for the Oct. 18 state visit of US President George W. Bush, according to Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff and spokesperson.

Air Force One carrying the world's most powerful man is expected to land at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport

(DMIA) in Clark, Pampanga. He will stay in the country for eight hours on his way to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok.

But despite the shortness of the visit, security measures will be stringent. "When [Bush] is around, we expect all possible threats... He's the US president;

ELABORATE/ A20

Joker on Pidal probe: We started it, we finish it

By Michael Lim Ubac

HEWING closely to party lines, senators yesterday continued to trade barbs over the Jose Pidal controversy. But despite the heated exchange, and the reported pressure from Malacañang, the inquiry led by the blue ribbon committee will definitely continue.

Committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo himself gave the assurance yesterday, saying the Senate had the duty to make heads or tails of the controversy by push-

ing through with the probe.

"We started it, we finish it," said Arroyo. "It's worse if we don't finish it."

He compared the inquiry to a car. "You can't just slam (on) the brakes and stop it. You have to continue."

Arroyo, a member of the administration coalition, said he would support the move of opposition senators to finish the investigation.

Members of the blue ribbon and the two other panels conducting the inquiry will meet on Monday to determine the

fate of the Pidal investigation.

Arroyo admitted that getting a quorum could be a problem, because the Senate is on recess from Sept. 12 to Oct. 5. "But we'll manage," he said.

Arroyo also urged the upper chamber to "apologize to the public" for the excessive attention the inquiry was receiving, and at the same time asked the public to understand the senators. "I myself would like to apologize to the public (because) there are some things that are not within our control but we have to go through

with it because that's the way it is."

"My spirit is dissipated," he sighed, adding: "It's really the Senate that they are criticizing. I mean, so much attention is being focused on a certain issue."

He admitted that the public's perception was that "there's very little news on what we are doing on the floor in the plenary."

"Because of that there's a wrong perception that all we're doing is this (the Pidal inquiry). That is the effect," he said.

But earlier, Senate President Franklin

JOKER/ A20

RP expected to get seat in UN Security Council

THE PHILIPPINE dream of getting a seat in the United Nations Security Council appears to be at hand.

UN diplomats in New York were quoted by Reuters on Thursday as saying that the Philippines, Algeria, Brazil and Romania are expected to get highly coveted seats on the 15-nation Security Council next year because their candidacies are unopposed.

The Security Council is responsible for international peace and security, and its decisions can be legally binding on all UN members.

Elections for the five council seats being vacated at the end of this year are due to take place on Oct. 10 in the 191-nation UN General Assembly. Candidates are elected for two-year terms.

The winners will be replacing Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and Syria, whose terms end on Dec. 31.

Most regional groupings select their candidates by rotation.

A contest, however, has emerged for a fifth seat opening up on Jan. 1: Benin is challenging Mauritania for the seat set aside for a West African nation. Mauritania normally would be next in line for the West Africa seat, with Benin slated for the following vacancy but Benin decided to enter the race early, diplomats said.

The council's membership is divided

RP EXPECTED/ A6

GMA seeks divine help against foes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sought divine intervention against forces that she said were out to destroy her administration and the Philippine democratic system.

Lighting a huge candle during a prayer rally led by Metro Manila mayors and citizens at the Rizal Park, the President prayed for peace, unity and democracy amid a national scandal involving her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Police estimated the crowd as numbering 600,000 at its peak. But as the rally progressed, the people thinned out.

"Superstar" Nora Aunor took center stage beside the President at the closing of the rally at 5:10 p.m., and all but stole the show.

Lifting a part of her statement issued earlier in the day, Ms Macapagal said events of the past months had threatened the country's democracy and weakened the economy.

She implored God to "enlighten ambi-

GMA/ A18

'F4'-2 + 1 here for P25-M gig

By Marinel R. Cruz

WORK at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport came to a virtual stop for about 30 minutes yesterday when two members of the phenomenally popular F4 boy band flew in from Taiwan for a scheduled performance tonight at the Philsports football field.

Although only two members of the quartet made it here for the show, Naia employees and visitors actually saw four, not just two yesterday.

This was because of a neat trick devised by the concert organizers to protect the wildly



STARS-SPANGLED reception worthy of visiting dignitaries is accorded the "Meteor Garden" stars Barbie Xu (left) and Vaness Wu (right, with white cap) and Ken Zhu who arrive yesterday for their concert at the former Ultra in Pasig City tonight.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Autumn in Paris good for First Couple

By Carlito Pablo and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COLD autumn winds of Europe and America might just do wonders for both the First Couple's marriage and the overheated political situation in the country, according to yet another House representative eager to put his own spin on the supposed rift between the President and her husband.

It will be like hitting two birds with one stone, said Rep. Abraham Mitra of Malacañang's reported plan to have First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo join the President on her six-day trip to Europe and the United States later this month.

"The couple needs a break and the enchanting sights of Europe

AUTUMN/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest and west will prevail throughout the archipelago.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, POI RESEARCH/09/13/03

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Lagapil	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Colapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

PCGG: Judge getting soft on Marcoses

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HAS FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos struck a "secret deal" with the American judge who wants to block the transfer to the Philippines of the \$683-million in Marcos Swiss deposits?

Alarm bells began ringing at the Presidential Commission on Good Government after Marcos asked the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 3 to allow her to go to the United States for 15 days, despite a standing arrest order against her there.

Hawaii Judge Manuel Real had cited the heirs of the late President Ferdinand Marcos for contempt in 1997 after they refused to pay the \$2 billion in damages he had awarded to 9,539 victims of martial law back in 1995.

As a result, the Marcoses face arrest once they set foot on US soil.

"Apparently Real has changed his mind about the Marcoses," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said, pointing out the two orders Real issued on Sept. 2 were favorable to the Marcoses.

First, Real blocked the transfer of the \$683 million in Marcos funds which the

Supreme Court had forfeited in favor of the government on July 15, 2003.

Then he revived the \$150-million compromise deal between the Marcoses and a group of martial law victim-claimants represented by American lawyer Robert Swift back in 1999.

The settlement, which would absolve the late dictator of any crimes, has since been declared unconstitutional by the Sandiganbayan.

Carranza said Real's orders were "disrespectful to our Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan."

Carranza said Marcos lawyer James Linn and Swift were apparently working together to prevent the money from going to the government.

"This is both James Linn and Robert Swift conspiring to derail the Supreme Court decision," he said,

adding "these are strange bedfellows on a strange bed."

In her request to travel to the US, Marcos said she needs treatment for a recurring headache and for her glaucoma.

But she also asked for another 15 days to travel to France, Portugal and Italy to fulfill her "spiritual promise" of a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima and the Vatican. She intends to be away from Sept. 17 to Oct. 17.

State prosecutors objected to her request, saying Marcos' "medical problem was not that grave or serious" and she could get treatment here.

They pointed out that the medical certificate she submitted in support of her illnesses had been issued by a cardiologist, Dr. Roberto Anastacio, on Dec. 12, 2002, nearly one year ago.

"If (her) condition... is serious enough to require medical attention from foreign doctors, why will she go on a tour of France, Portugal and Italy immediately after the medical examination?" the prosecutors asked.

'WHAT'S HAPPENING?'

Mike's woes spark Lakas free-for-all

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

"WHAT'S HAPPENING to our party, Madame President?" Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Lakas, Negros Occidental) asked yesterday, as an intra-party free-for-all has broken out in Lakas in the wake of a member's proposal the First Couple separate in the aftermath of the Jose Pidal controversy.

"Is there no more room for expression in the party?" asked Lozada, in defense of Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo (Lakas, Valenzuela), who had put forth the legal separation suggestion.

Lozada is identified with Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Lakas president, who had earlier warned of dire consequences resulting from the Senate hearing into the Jose Pidal controversy.

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez, however, was quick to tamp down any controversy, saying it has not affected the "political spine" of the party despite repeated attempts by Sen. Panfilo Lacson to drag President Macapagal-Arroyo into the fray.

'Fairly stable'

Alvarez said Lacson's attacks against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo were meant to destroy the President and have affected a few party members but not Lakas as a whole.

"The party is fairly stable. I've talked to [the] members and they're very supportive of the idea that the President is having a hard time but she's riding the waves," Alvarez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Alvarez also said Gunigundo could not be faulted for voicing his concerns and his

use of "democratic space" to air his sentiments should be respected.

Gunigundo has been receiving flak for suggesting the First Couple go through a legal separation in order to protect the President and Lakas from the fallout of the First Gentleman's alleged involvement in money laundering and other questioned activities.

But, Alvarez pointed out, it was inappropriate for either Gunigundo or Lacson to delve into the marital affairs of anybody, particularly the First Couple, since this was a private matter.

'Let them do it'

Jose Maria Rufino, political liaison officer of President Macapagal and Lakas executive director, had earlier called for disciplinary action against both Gunigundo and Guingona.

"Let them do it," Lozada said. "Don't be surprised if there'll be dissension in the party."

Lakas stalwart Rep. Rodolfo Albano (Isabela) said Thursday Gunigundo could always resign from the party if he can't stand the heat generated by the Jose Pidal controversy.

Yesterday, it was Gunigundo's turn to lash out at both Albano and Rufino.

He said Albano had no right to call for sanctions against him because he [Albano] "cannot even control his son who belongs to the other party."

Gunigundo was referring to Rodolfo "Rodito" Albano III, who is with the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

As for Rufino, Gunigundo said: "He is not even an elected official and he has no constituents to speak of."

More mutineers to get off the hook

MORE SOLDIERS implicated in the July 27 Oakwood mutiny will be set free before the court martial of their officers begins.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, said he expects more soldiers to be released in addition to the 77 who had already been cleared.

About 300 officers and enlisted men were originally held in military camps for joining the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier luxury apartment-hotel in Makati.

"I feel there would be more released in the forthcoming days. (They would be those) found to have not been involved in the Oakwood incident and those for whom probable cause had not been determined," Garcia said, after he testified before the fact-finding Feliciano Commission yesterday.

The commission is looking into the causes of the mutiny as well as the culpability of those who took part in it.

Garcia said the court martial would not start until after a "pre-trial investigation."

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

UN seeks global freeze of terrorists' assets

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations has asked world governments to freeze the assets of 20 suspected members of the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian terror network blamed for last year's bomb attack in Bali, Indonesia.

A UN spokesperson yesterday said a Security Council committee last Tuesday added 20 names—primarily Indonesians, Malaysians and Filipinos—to its list of groups and individuals whose assets should be frozen due to their suspected ties to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida international terrorist network.

The list now includes 123 people and 98 groups, organizations and companies.

A separate Security Council list names another 151 individuals and one group linked to Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers.

The goal of the UN lists is to deprive alleged terrorists of the resources they need to carry out attacks.

Putting the names on the list obliges the 191 UN member nations to block

their movements and bar them from obtaining arms, funds or other resources, in addition to freezing their assets.

The UN action was requested by the United States, which put the same 20 names on its own asset freeze list last week.

Most of the individuals are Malaysian or Indonesian, although two are from the Philippines and one from Pakistan.

The Security Council panel offered no explanation for its action, but US Treasury Secretary John Snow said last week the 20 were "at the heart of the Jemaah Islamiyah network."

"These terrorists have worked to achieve al-Qaida terrorist goals in Southeast Asia," he said during a trip to Thailand.

Washington blames the al-Qaida terror network for the attacks that killed about 3,000 people in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Jemaah Islamiyah network is

widely blamed for the October 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people and an attack on the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta last month in which 12 people were killed, including a suicide bomber.

Heading the list is Indonesian Imam Samudra, an Afghan-trained fighter who was sentenced to death this month by a Bali court after being convicted of plotting the nightclub bombings, and Malaysian Azahari Husin, suspected of being Jemaah Islamiyah's top bomb maker.

The two Filipinos on the list were Salim Salamuddin Julkipli, of Tulay, Jolo, Sulu, a captured member of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang who is believed to have planned the Oct. 2, 2002 bombing in Zamboanga City that killed one US soldier and two Filipinos; and Muklis Yunos, also known as Saifullah Yunos, an explosives expert now in custody whom the US government says carried out the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Two others names in the list are well-known in the Philippines. Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, was convicted for illegal possession of explosives and serving a jail term when he escaped from a Camp Crame jail last July. Al-Ghozi is alleged to have planned the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Agus Dwikarna, another Indonesian also believed to be a JI member, was also implicated in the Rizal Day bombings and is serving a jail term in the Philippines for illegal possession of explosives.

Some of the individuals added to the UN list include a Malaysian chemist named Yazid Sufaat, whom authorities believe hosted two of the Sept. 11 hijackers in 2000, as well as Zacarias Moussaoui, the accused Sept. 11 conspirator now in US custody. Sufaat is also suspected of providing Moussaoui with fake papers he used to make his way to the United States.

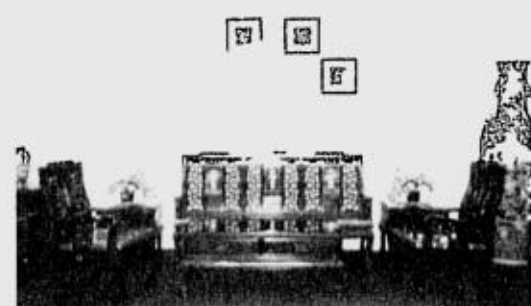
Reuters and AP

Price Twister

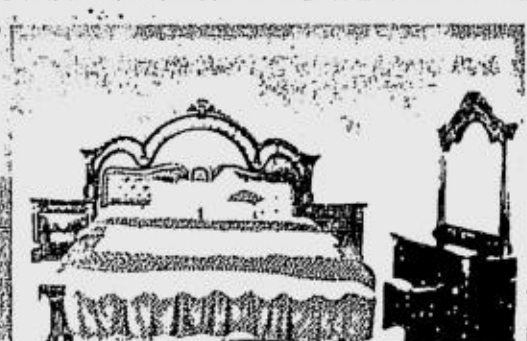
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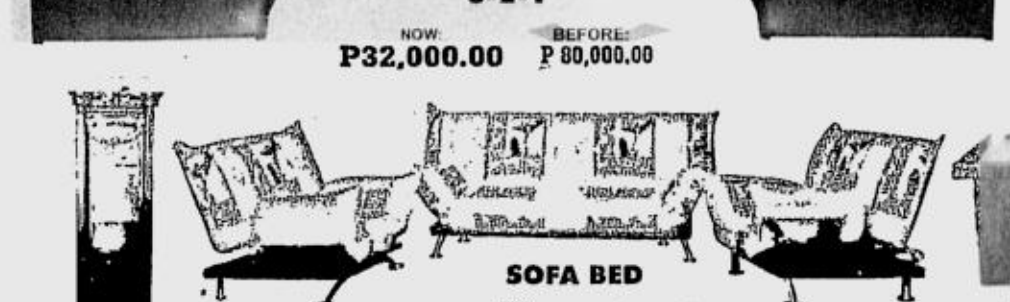
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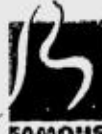
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Judges seek budget hike for justice

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUDGES from all over the country have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Congress to increase the judiciary's budget for 2004.

They said that the proposed budget for the entire judiciary is five times less than even that of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

They noted that some judges have become so dependent on local government units that the constitutional mandate for the judiciary's fiscal independence is violated.

In a joint manifestation and appeal, the Philippine Judges Association, the Metropolitan and City Judges Association of the Philippines, and the Philippine Trial Judges League asked the President to direct the Department of Budget and Management "to effect an equitable and reasonable increase" in the judiciary's budget.

They also asked the Senate and the House of Representatives to pass such an increase.

The judges lamented that while the judiciary is co-equal to the executive and legislative branches of government, "it is given very little attention in the allocation of government resources."

They pointed out that the judiciary got "a measly P7.8 billion" or only 0.9 percent of the proposed national budget of P864.8 billion.

The judges said this was five to 10 times less than the proposed budget of the education department (P107.5 billion), public works (P48.2 billion) defense (P45.2 billion) and local government (P43.9 billion).

"It is so sad that the third 'co-equal' branch of our government, tasked with the very vital and indispensable function of dispensing and administering justice, and overloaded with hundreds of thousands of cases, gets so much less than many departments/agencies of the executive branch," the judges said.

They said the meager allocation for the judiciary is not enough to construct additional courtrooms.

They noted that some judges, especially those in the first level courts, use session halls and office buildings owned by local government units as their sala.

This means that the judges are also dependent on the LGUs for utilities and the maintenance and operating expenses.

British MPs due for visit

A DELEGATION of British members of Parliament will visit the country from Sept. 14 to 19 at the invitation of Senate President Franklin Drilon, head of the Philippine delegation that visited the United Kingdom in 2001.

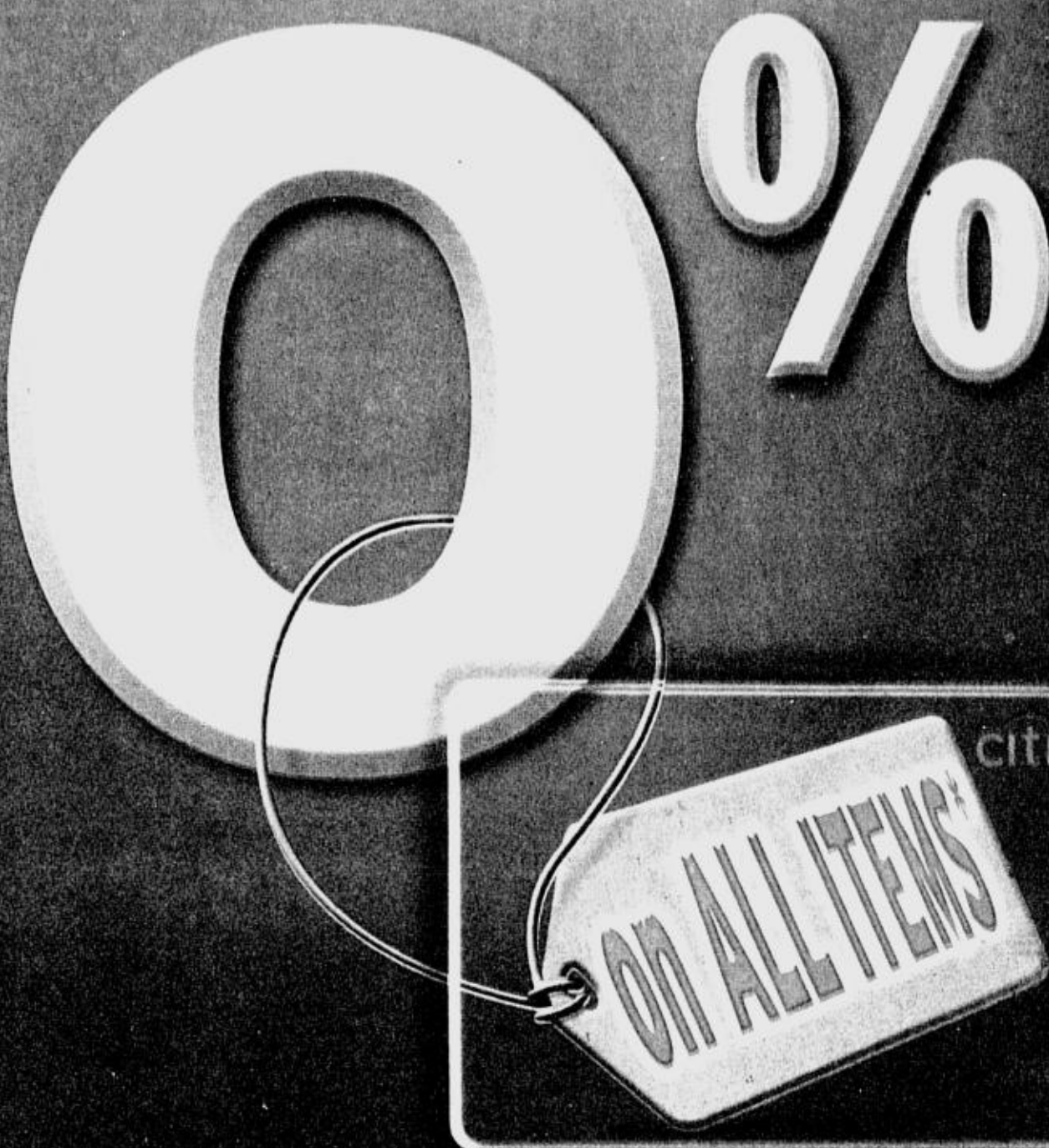
The visit of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is aimed at developing dialogue between the two legislatures and contribute to a deeper understanding by their members of topical issues that affect Filipino and British policy makers and constituents, according to a press statement from the British Embassy in Manila.

The UK delegation is expected to exchange views with a range of Philippine politicians and senior government officials on important issues of common interest, including counter-terrorism and defense, trade, development and the environment.

The visitors are also scheduled to learn more, from meetings with business and department of trade representatives, about opportunities for UK investment in the Philippines. Members of the Parliament of the UK delegation will explore issues of common interest to their Filipino-British constituents, such as training, recruitment and protection of Filipino workers in the UK, the embassy said.

The delegation is headed by MP Doug Henderson and will include MPs Austin Mitchell, Paul Stinchcombe, Jonathan Sayeed and members of the House of Lords Baroness Strange and Lord Rogan of Lower Iveagh.

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Today's WHAT'S NEWS questions:

- Said to be the tallest mountain in the world is...
a. Mt. Everest
b. Mt. Apo
c. Mt. Ararat
d. Mt. Fuji
- 75% of the body is composed of what?
a. muscle
b. fat
c. bones
d. water
- Tiger Woods is a famous player of which sport?
a. basketball
b. golf
c. tennis
d. bowling
- "I shall return" is the famous line of...
a. Jose Rizal
b. Douglas MacArthur
c. Magellan
d. Andres Bonifacio
- Which sport is played inside a diamond field?
a. baseball
b. football
c. cricket
d. fencing

INQUIRE

what's
news

TXT
game

SC tackles religious vote

By Philip C. Tubeza

WILL RELIGIOUS leaders continue to be allowed to influence their followers' vote in elections?

The answer will be known after the Supreme Court ordered the Solicitor General to comment on the petition by Bro. Mike Velarde seeking to reverse a Manila court ruling which declared as unconstitutional the endorsement of candidates by religious leaders.

Velarde heads the influential Catholic charismatic group, El Shaddai, whose support is avidly sought by candidates come election time.

Velarde challenged the Manila court's ruling because it allegedly violated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion.

In a one-page resolution, the Supreme Court gave Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo 10 days to comment

on Velarde's petition.

The SC also allowed the other respondents in the case, like Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo, evangelical leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva and "Ang Dating Daan" head Bro. Eli Soriano, to file their comments if they want to.

Manalo's INC practices bloc-voting. Sin was instrumental in rallying support for the assumption to power of former President Corazon Aquino and current President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The El Shaddai supported Joseph Estrada in the last presidential elections allowing him to win handily. Estrada, however, was ousted two years later over plunder charges.

Velarde also challenged the legal standing of the Social Justice Society party, which initiated the case before the Manila court.

On June 27, Manila Judge Concepcion

S. Alarcon-Vergara ruled that the head of a religious organization who "influences or threatens to punish" members could be held liable for coercion, for violating a citizen's right to vote freely.

While Velarde has gone directly to the Supreme Court, Manalo went to the Court of Appeals to also ask that Vergara's decision be overturned.

Manalo said Vergara acted with "grave abuse of discretion" in issuing the decision which was favorable to the SJS.

More importantly, Manalo's lawyer Restituto Lazaro noted, the SJS petition affects one of the doctrines of the INC, which encourages bloc voting by its followers.

"After all, as Filipino citizens, INC members likewise enjoy the right of suffrage. As to how they should exercise such right is a matter no one in a free and democratic country like ours can validly question....," Lazaro said.



VELARDE

GMA to speak twice before UN this month

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be delivering two major speeches before the United Nations this month—one during the 58th UN General Assembly in New York and the other at the 32nd General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in Paris.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said the President was invited by Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura to deliver the keynote address representing the developing world at the Unesco conference on Sept. 29.

Ople said Ms Macapagal was one of only two keynote speakers invited to the opening of the Unesco General Conference. The other was Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi who will speak in behalf of the developed countries.

The General Conference consists of the representatives of the 189 Unesco member-states and determines the policies and main lines of work of the organization. It meets every two years and observers of non-member states, intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are allowed to attend.

Unesco's aims

Founded in 1946, Unesco aims to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication.

Ople himself will address the General Conference on Sept. 30.

Prior to that engagement, Ople will head for New York on Sept. 17 to attend the opening of the 58th UN General Assembly.

While in New York, he will hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts from other nations and participate in a meeting of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ople will also accompany Ms Macapagal when she delivers her keynote address to the General Assembly. Expected to be tackled at the 58th GA are issues such as terrorism, human rights, development, good governance, UN reform and budget discipline.

Ople said the President is expected to push the Philippine proposal for an Inter-Faith Council in the United Nations.

"President Macapagal and I are determined to push this very important and timely idea of Speaker Jose de Venecia. The support of the president of the 58th UN General Assembly will be crucial," Ople said.

The DFA said the President's speech is also expected to boost the Philippines' bid for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

Ople said the President will also participate in the 9th Asean Summit on Oct. 7 and 8 in Bali, Indonesia. Heads of state of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and leaders of China, Japan, South Korea and India are expected to attend.

Oil firms slash prices by 10¢

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL COMPANIES yesterday slashed the prices of their gasoline products by 10 centavos per liter effective 6 p.m. yesterday due to lower gasoline prices in the international market.

Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Total Philippines announced the price cuts after Seaoil Philippines Corp. brought down gasoline prices by 20 centavos per liter last Monday.

In a statement, Caltex said the reduction was in line with the company's strategy to move prices in smaller amounts and more frequently, which more accurately reflect changes in market and competitive conditions.

"While this (reduction) is for gasoline products at the moment, we are also closely watching market conditions affecting prices of our other products."

Fernando Martinez, chair of the Independent Petroleum Companies Association, said in a telephone interview that the latest round of price reductions was apparently in reaction to Seaoil's unpublished move last Monday.

"Sales are down and some companies are feeling the need to perk up demand. This is market-driven," Martinez said.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. was still monitoring the market and has not decided to follow suit, Martinez said.

Seaoil president Francis Glenn Yu said international prices of unleaded gasoline had softened by 14 percent or \$5 per barrel.

"The driving season is over and gasoline prices are going down. It's a different picture with diesel prices, which are going up," Yu said.

Asked whether Seaoil's move prompted the Big Three to follow, "We have 80 fuel stations all over the country. This could also mean we are big enough to affect the local market."

Meantime, Caltex said it has added another retail station that will provide discounts on diesel prices to jeepney drivers.

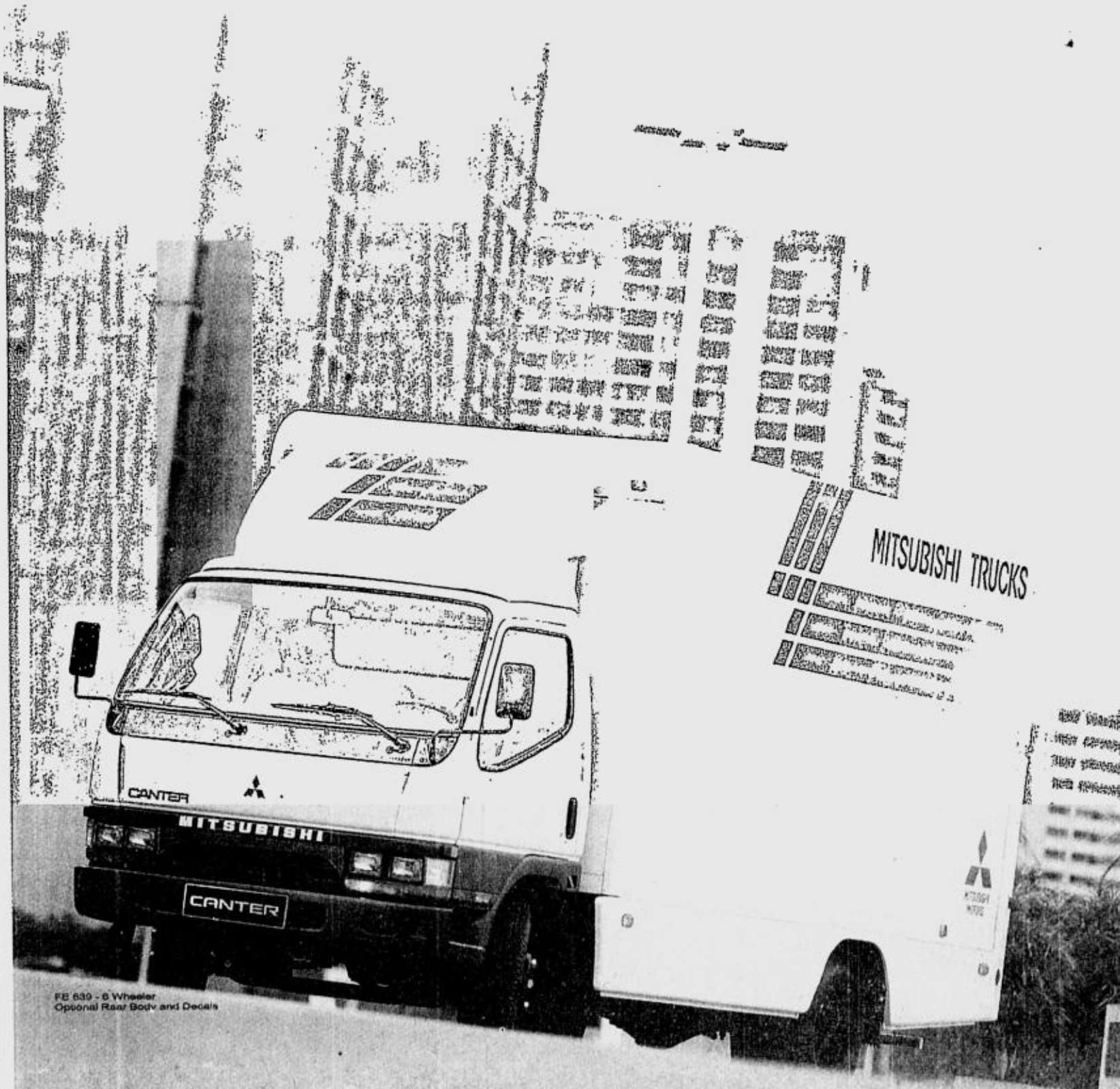
The station at the corner of Blumentritt and N. Roxas streets in San Isidro Labrador, Quezon City, brought to seven the number of Caltex stations giving such discounts.

Earlier this week, the Department of Energy said seven oil firms were giving special discounts to public transport groups in 43 filling stations all over Metro Manila.

The scheme aims to dissuade transport groups from seeking fare hike increases.

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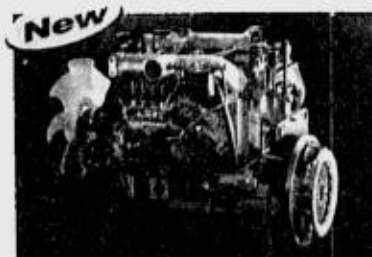


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'WE WILL GO TO COURT'

Danding lawyer questions UCPB rehab plan

By Armand Nocom

THE LAWYER of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday warned the government against infusing P20 billion for the rehabilitation of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

Lawyer Estelito Mendoza also questioned the appointment of a new set of UCPB officials by the Presidential Commission on Good Government without the approval of the bank's stockholders. Speaking to reporters after a hearing on the UCPB case at the Sandiganbayan, Mendoza said UCPB would just be opening itself up to more litigation should it pursue the five-year rehabilitation plan.

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) approved in July a P20-billion financial package to shore up UCPB's capital. In April, PDIC had ad-

vanced P5 billion to UCPB to address the bank's liquidity problems.

"We will go to court to compel the holding of a stockholders' meeting," he said, adding that UCPB stockholders should have been informed of the bank's financial condition prior to the conduct of a rehabilitation program.

Cojuangco earlier asked the Sandiganbayan to order the UCPB to disclose the bank's true condition, noting that the bank's ranking had slid from being number one in 1985 to 11 to 12 at present.

"It is not only the stockholders who have an interest in this. It is the general public. PDIC borrows from the Bangko Sentral. PDIC is the one who lends the money," he said, noting that the last UCPB stockholders' meeting was in 1986.

Mendoza, in his earlier pleadings be-

fore the court, blamed the alleged mismanagement of UCPB by PCGG-appointed officials for the bank's continuing financial hemorrhage.

The PCGG this month appointed four new officials of UCPB led by former Bank of America country manager for the Philippines Jose Querubin as new UCPB president. They were tasked to map out plans to reinvigorate the bank, notwithstanding the ongoing ownership dispute.

But Mendoza said such a rehabilitation plan can best succeed if stockholders are given a free hand to elect the UCPB board, which will in turn elect the president, treasurer, corporate secretary and other top officials of the bank.

The UCPB is locked in an ownership dispute between the government, Cojuangco and the coconut farmers. Co-

juangco and the farmers are claiming 95 percent of the UCPB shares which the government sequestered in 1986.

In July, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco had illegally acquired UCPB with coconut levy funds and forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government. Cojuangco has appealed the ruling.

UCPB is the administrator of the coconut levy funds estimated to be worth at least P100 billion. The coconut levy was collected from farmers from 1973 to 1982 and was believed to have been used to buy UCPB, formerly First United Bank, from the family of former President Corason Aquino.

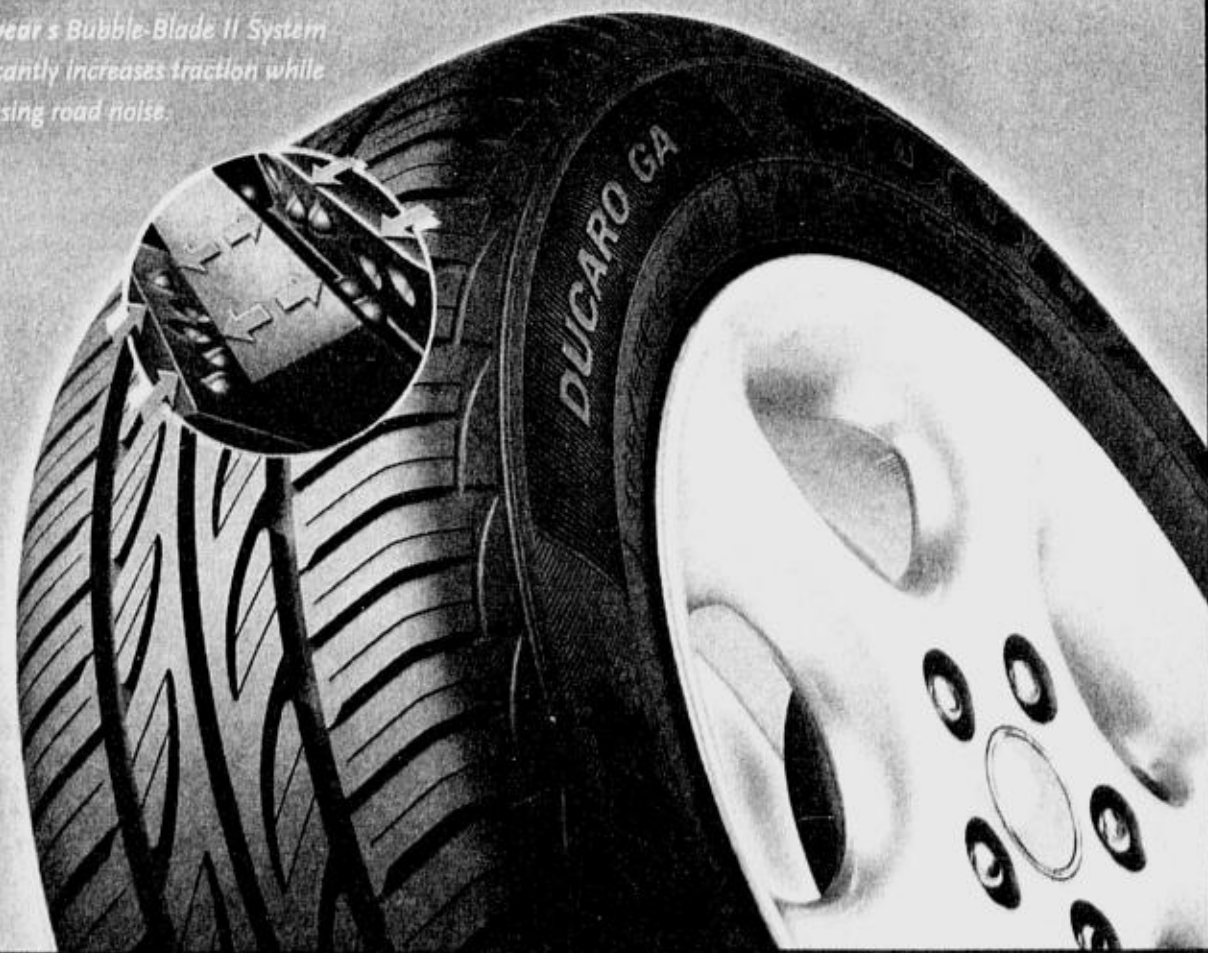
The coconut levy funds were also believed to have been used to buy six oil mills that own 14 holding companies that, in turn, bought a 27-percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

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President asks poor: Don't join groups out to grab power

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BUT she's not politicking.

Professing her administration's love for the poor, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made an impassioned appeal to the people not to join destabiliza-

The President said a "record high" of 600,000 families had been assured security of tenure during her two-and-a-half years in office. She cited her meetings with transport operators, who vowed not to raise fares, and the discounts on diesel fuel for jeepneys given by 40 gasoline stations.

"This is what we do every day so that we can address the needs of the poor. We are working on these problems, not politicking," she said at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City, where she dis-

tributed certificates of lot occupancy to squatter families.

"I hope you see that your present administration loves you," she added.

The President urged the people to reject those agitating them to topple her administration.

"I appeal to you, don't join those who ask you to fight the government. Don't ever agree to ambitious people who want to grab power," she said.

In a statement issued by Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said she would not yield "an inch of the people's sovereignty that they intend to usurp by force."

for power must wait for the constitutional opportunities to vie for it," she said.

Responding to the homily of Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas, the President said the roots of the present crisis were ambition, hatred and greed.

"We shall overcome these by unity, peace and democracy," she said.

She also said she had submerged her leadership in the "profound yearnings of our people for food on the table, a roof over their heads and peace in their homes."

"I shall continue to spend my day in the uplift of the poor and the underprivileged, and in caring for the dispossessed," she said.



MACAPAGAL

RP expected to get seat . . .

From page A1

into three groups. One-third of the seats are reserved for the five permanent council members with veto power—the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China. Five of the remaining 10 seats come up for grabs each year.

Staying on the council for 2004, in addition to the five permanent members, will be Germany, Spain, Pakistan, Chile and Angola, who started their two-year terms just last January.

While no Western European seats are opening up in January, the region is known for its intense campaigns for council vacancies.

But, in an unusual move, the region has already chosen its candidates for the two Western European seats opening up in 2005. Last month, Greece and Denmark were earmarked to succeed Germany and Spain.

GMA to lobby for seat

President Macapagal-Arroyo had vowed earlier this week to press for the Philippine bid for a Security Council seat when she travels to New York on Sept. 25 to address the 56th session of the

UN General Assembly and meet with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Ms Macapagal had debunked local press reports that Manila's bid could be jeopardized by her government's close association to the United States, which this year elevated Manila to a major non-Nato ally.

"The Philippines has been aiming for a seat at the UN Security Council for some time now and this has nothing to do with our strategic partnership with the United States," she had said in a statement.

"It is erroneous and unfair to say that our support for the US campaign versus terrorism would hamper our bid."

She noted that the UN had passed a resolution supporting a campaign against terrorism shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

"Our strategic partnership with the US is part of our involvement in global security. The UN itself is a nonpartisan body," Ms. Macapagal had said. "These are factors that support, rather than impair our bid for a UN Security Council seat." *Reuters, AFP*

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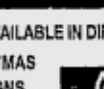
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Saturday, September 13, 2003
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Tim 1:15-17
Gospel: Lk 6:43-49

Jesus said to the crowd, "No healthy tree bears bad fruit, no poor tree bears good fruit. And each tree is known by the fruit it bears: you don't gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles. Similarly, the good person draws good things from the good stored in the heart, and an evil person draws evil things from the evil stored in the heart. For the mouth speaks from the fullness of the heart.

Why do you call me: 'Lord! Lord!' and not do what I say? I will show you what the one who comes to me and listens to my words and acts accordingly, is like. That one is like the builder who dug deep and laid the foundations of his house on rock. The river overflowed and the stream dashed against the house, but could not carry it off because the house had been well built.

But the one who listens and does not act, is like a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation. The flood burst against it, and the house fell at once: and what a terrible disaster that was!"

Commentary

"Laid the foundation of his house in rock." What is a society with a rock foundation? What is a family with a rock foundation? What is a relationship with rock foundation? For Jesus, it means listening to his words and putting them into practice. To listen is not easy. It means having the discipline to spare some time to listen. Furthermore, it means an investment in concentration. One cannot listen well without paying attention to the words and the message behind the words. After listening, the harder part comes which is practicing it and living according to it. It is to make the words of Jesus the operational principle of one's thoughts, words and actions. And this is easier said than done because discernment is needed. Which words of Jesus apply in this particular case? What are the circumstances? What are my needs and my wants? What are the expectations of people around me? What are my priorities? How far am I willing to go? Am I ready for the consequences? It is difficult, for sure but not impossible. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Helper in our discernment.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



JUDICIAL ETHICS—Judge has to decide cases within 90-day period provided by the Constitution—Respondent judge admitted that the last pleading in Criminal Case No. 311 which was complainant's memorandum was filed on January 5, 2000. Under the law, respondent judge is required to resolve the case within three (3) months or until April 5, 2000. Respondent judge, however, issued the decision only on November 27, 2000, seven (7) months after the deadline. As submitted by the OCA, the seven-month delay in the resolution of the case constitutes gross inefficiency for which respondent judge is administratively liable. The delay is inexcusable, especially since respondent judge admitted that he had commenced writing the decision immediately after the case was submitted for decision. He, however, failed to release it on time because it was kept inside his office cabinet and totally slipped his mind until his office clerk belatedly called his attention to the status of Civil Case No. 311. This is a clear indication of poor management of the court's docket. Respondent judge has the duty to keep track of the development of the cases pending before his sala and to take note of the cases which are ripe for decision or resolution and to ensure that said cases are resolved promptly. Canon 3, Rule 3.08 and Rule 3.09 of the Code of Judicial Conduct require judges to manage their dockets in such manner that the work of their courts is accomplished with reasonable dispatch. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, Third Division, *Ambalong v. Lubguban*, A.M. No. MTJ-02-1449, February 5, 2003]

By R. B. VERA

Low turnout of absentee listing not NGOs' fault, says Abalos

COMMISSION on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday backed down from his earlier statements that appeared to blame non-government organizations for the low turnout in overseas voter registration.

The main reason for the low turnout was the law, Abalos told a breakfast forum at the Ambassador Hotel.

"It's not because of lack of information, it's because of the constraints of the law. The NGOs have nothing to do with this, I am not blaming them," he said.

After a month of registration, only about 120,000 overseas Filipinos have signed up.

The registration for overseas voters ends on Sept. 30.

Overseas NGOs protested Abalos' remarks that some of the NGOs were asking for funds to launch an information campaign on overseas voting.

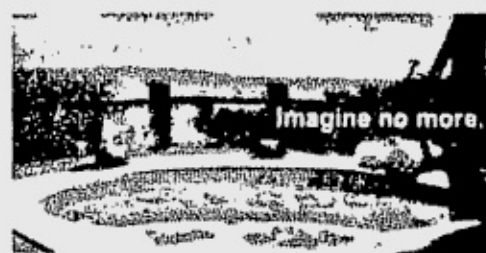
The Absentee Voting Law requires that overseas Filipinos wishing to vote in elections here submit an affidavit stating that they plan to reside in the Philippines within three years.

Abalos said that most of those who registered were retirees with an average age of 80 years.

The low turnout prompted Abalos to lower Comelec targets from the original 2.5 million to 1.7 million, then 800,000, and now to only a "high" of 400,000 and a "low" of 200,000.

Yesterday, Abalos said the commission was considering doing away with the automated counting machines for some overseas posts. *Martin P. Marfil*

ing machines for some overseas posts. *Martin P. Marfil*



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Contractor in road scam wants charges dismissed

By Armand Nocum

A PRIVATE contractor implicated in the P532.9 million alleged overpricing of the 5.1-kilometer President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project in the Manila Bay reclamation area yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the charges filed against him.

Jesúsito Legaspi, owner of JD Legaspi Construction, which bagged the contract for the controversial 2.3-km portion of the road, which runs parallel to the Roxas Boulevard, filed a "motion to quash" before the anti-graft court, citing the findings of two audit teams from the Commission on Audit which found the cost of the project as "reasonably priced."

Napoleon Poblador, Legaspi's lawyer, noted that in cases involving alleged irregularities in government, COA's views are always given weight on technical matters involving bidding and construction.

"But none of the members of the two audit teams were included in the charge sheet," he told reporters following a hearing at the Sandiganbayan.

Poblador said that with such findings, the case is only bound to be dismissed "10 years" from now when government prosecutors shall have failed to present clear evidence against Legaspi.

But prosecutor Raymundo Julio Olague accused Legaspi of trying to delay the scheduled Sept. 18 arraignment by filing the motion. "This is just a dilatory tactic," Olague said.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier approved the filing of graft charges against 20 officials of the Public Estates Authority (PEA), six COA auditors and Legaspi for allegedly conspiring to bloat by 250 percent the budget for the 5.1-km road stretch, which was named after the President Macapagal-Arroyo's father.

The road's construction was funded by the Government Service Insurance System.

In its resolution, the Ombudsman upheld whistle-blower Sulificio Tagud's, himself a former PEA director, allegation of gross overpricing: "It would appear that the stretch of road developed by JD Legaspi was overpriced by 250 percent, or P216,449 per linear meter, while the bridge constructed by JD Legaspi was overpriced by at least 67 percent or P768,567 per linear meter," the resolution read.

Drug syndicates getting back at law enforcers

By Christian V. Esguerra

BIG drug syndicates are doing everything to stymie the massive government campaign against drug trafficking, including filing a steady stream of criminal complaints against police operatives involved in the drive.

More than 100 policemen have been slapped with complaints since the government launched its massive anti-drug campaign in June, according to Director Ricardo de Leon, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, police anti-drug czar, noted that before the crackdown only 98 officers had been the subject of complaints.

"Drug syndicates want to paralyze police operations by filing cases against our operatives," De Leon told reporters yesterday. "Every time there are successful operations, there are counter-charges against our operatives."

Policemen facing complaints are immediately grounded pending resolution of their cases, De Leon pointed out, threatening to further dwindle the number of operatives involved in the anti-drug drive.

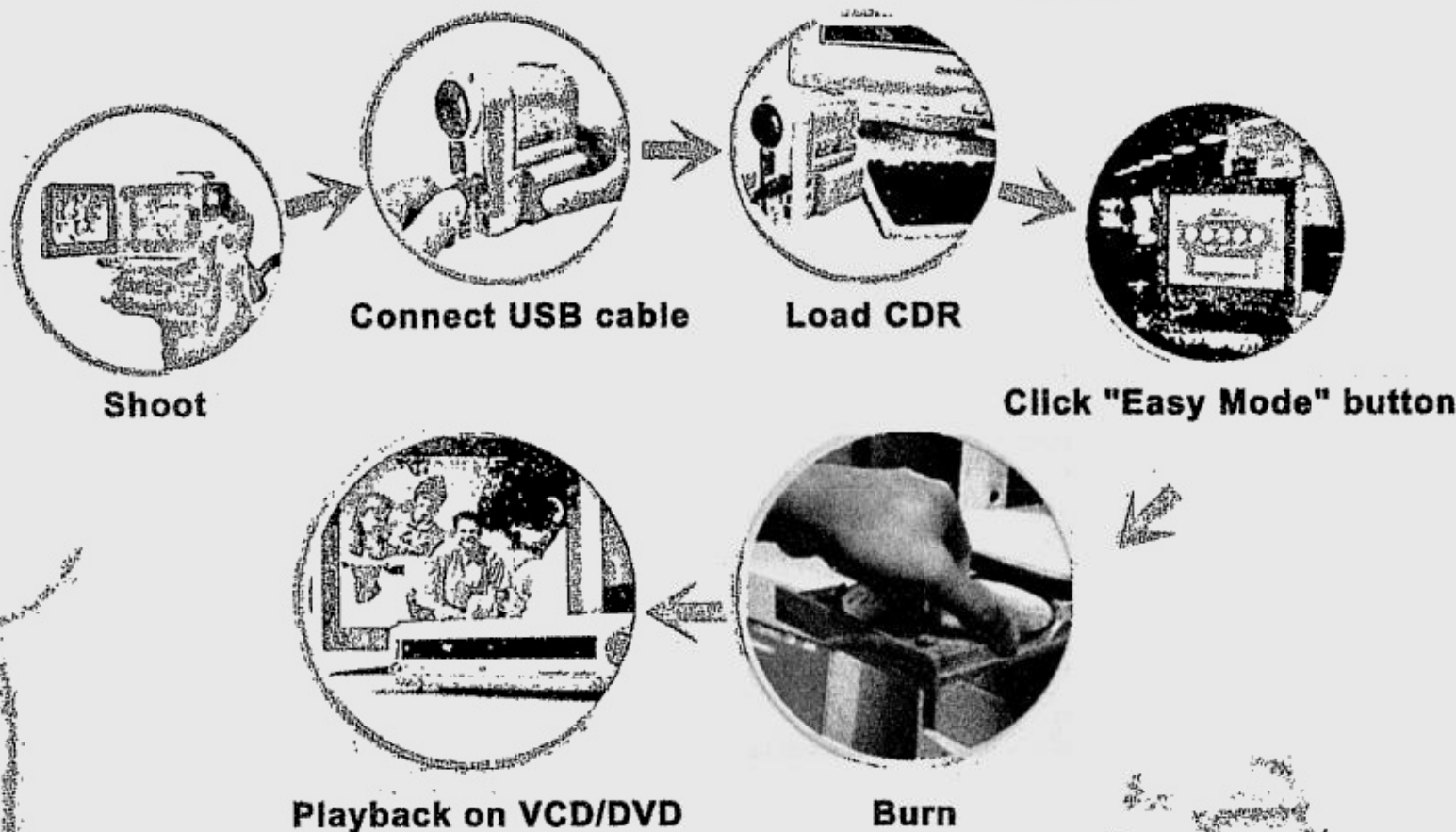
The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, which was assigned to lead the campaign, has only around 700 operatives, making it necessary to look to the PNP for logistical support.

Some police officers, however, are in hot water with the law on their own.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Premier says Mussolini was benign, sparks storm

ROME—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi set off a ferocious political storm on Thursday after saying that former Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini was a benevolent leader who had never killed anyone.

Italy's Jewish community expressed outrage at the explosive comments and opposition center-left parties demanded an apology.

In an interview published on Thursday, Berlusconi told two British journalists that there was no comparison between deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Mussolini, who led Italy to a disastrous defeat in World War II alongside Adolf Hitler.

When asked if Mussolini was "benign," Berlusconi replied: "Yes." He went on to say: "Mussolini never killed anyone. Mussolini sent people on holiday in internal exile."

Pacing a wall of protest over his remarks, Berlusconi later said that he had reacted "as a patriot, as a real Italian" when the journalists from Britain's *Spectator* magazine and Italy's *La Voce di Romagna* newspaper had compared Mussolini to Saddam.

"I never intended to re-evaluate Mussolini," said Berlusconi, who has repeatedly raised eyebrows with his outspoken comments during his two years in office.

Mussolini ruled Italy with an iron fist from 1922 to 1943, launching bloody colonial wars in Africa before hooking Italy up to the Nazi bandwagon.

One Mussolini biographer, Richard Bosworth, estimates at least one million people died as a result of his 20-year rule, with "atrocious massacres of Libyans, Ethiopians, inhabitants of the ex-Yugoslavia and... thousands of Italian Jews."

Mussolini introduced Italy's first anti-Semitic laws in 1938, opening the way for the eventual deportation of around 7,000 Jews to Nazi concentration camps. Some 5,910 died.

"Berlusconi's comments cause me profound pain," Amos Luzzatto, the President of the union of Italian Jewish communities, said.

Pierluigi Castagnetti, parliamentary party leader of the center-left Margherita party, said the prime minister's remarks were "incredible and shocking." *Reuters*

US mourns victims of Sept. 11



TWIN beams of light from the "Tribute in Light" at the former World Trade Center site can be seen on both sides of the Statue of Liberty from Bayonne, N.J., Sept. 11. AP

NEW YORK—With tears of sorrow and defiance, the United States Thursday marked the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that set the country on the path to war.

Children reading the names of the victims provided a backdrop to the centerpiece memorial at Ground Zero, while equally somber ceremonies were held at the other sites of the hijack plane attacks, which left more than 3,000 dead.

"Today again we are a city that mourns," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told thousands who gathered at the site where the twin towers of the World Trade Center came crashing down two years ago.

Though scaled down from the first anniversary, the three-hour ceremony still carried a powerful emotional punch, compounded by the new-found uncertainties of a country at war.

Patriotism was very much to the fore and the service opened with a children's choir singing the national anthem and closed with a rendition of "America The Beautiful."

A nationwide minute's silence was staged at 8:46 a.m. to mark the moment when the first jet hijacked by Osama bin Laden's followers smashed into the north tower of the trade center.

Ground Zero went silent three more times for the attack on the second tower and the eventual

collapse of both buildings.

Under brilliant blue skies, reminiscent of the day of the attacks, 200 children—mostly sons and daughters of the dead—read the names of the 2,792 killed in New York.

Many of the children had practiced for weeks, but some, overcome by emotion, faltered as the names of their own relatives came up.

"Two years later, I still can't believe it happened. It just doesn't seem real," said Jill Gartenberg, whose husband died in the World Trade Center.

President George W. Bush observed the first moment of silence on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington after attending a special church service.

"Today, our nation remembers: We remember a sad and terrible day, September the 11th, 2001," he said.

"We remember lives lost. We remember the heroic deeds. We remember the compassion and the decency of our fellow citizens on that terrible day."

Vice President Dick Cheney late Thursday put in an appearance among the crowds gathered at Ground Zero, but made no public statement.

As dusk began to settle on the city shortly after 7 p.m., two powerful spotlights shot beams of light skyward in remembrance of the World Trade Center's twin towers that were long a hallmark of the Manhattan skyline.

Bloomberg had announced last month that the two beams would be rekindled every year hence on the night of Sept. 11-12 to mark the debacle.

Ceremonies were also held in Washington for the victims at the Defense Department headquarters where a third hijacked jet smashed into the building killing 184 people.

Thousands paused in Pentagon corridors and stood at attention by their desks to remember colleagues killed in the attack. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld laid a wreath at the National Ceremony in nearby Arlington, Virginia.

"The fight for freedom continues," Rumsfeld said. "Because we know if we do not fight the terrorists over there in Iraq, in Afghanistan and across the world, then we will have to face them here, and many more men, women and children will perish and the patriots defending them."

A bell tolled 40 times in the field at Shanksville in Pennsylvania where a fourth jet crashed after an uprising by passengers against four al-Qaida hijackers. All 40 passengers and crew on board died.

Congress held its own ceremonies and religious services or ceremonial tolling of church bells were staged in towns and villages across the United States.

Bloomberg, who led the mourning at Ground Zero, stressed the need to balance the grief with optimism for the future. *AFP*

Chile takes painful look at coup 30 years later

By Fiona Ortiz

SANTIAGO, Chile—A prosperous and democratic Chile painfully looked back 30 years on Thursday to the military coup on Sept. 11, 1973 that split the nation and ushered in 17 years of dictatorship under Augusto Pinochet.

President Ricardo Lagos began official commemorations by re-opening the door through which firemen carried the corpse of socialist President Salvador Allende, who killed himself after the air force bombed the Moneda palace. The door had been sealed by the military regime.

"Our mission is to build a Chile where what happened 30 years ago can never occur again... where differences are part of normal democ-

racy and not battle trenches," Lagos, a socialist who signed a free trade pact with the United States this year, told hundreds of guests in the palace in downtown Santiago.

Lagos' words of unity came against a faint background noise of street demonstrators chanting "Allende lives" and demanding justice for human rights crimes under the military regime.

The military, under a new generation of commanders, turned out in gray and red dress uniforms at a Mass attended by army chief Gen. Juan Emilio Cheyre, who recently recognized the military's role in the human rights violations.

More than 3,000 people died after the US-backed overthrow of Allende's democratically elected government. Many were leftists

who were tortured and executed in sports stadiums and their bodies dumped in the capital's Mapocho River.

The ailing 87-year-old Pinochet will receive supporters at his Santiago mansion, but will not participate in official acts.

Some 3,000 Pinochet loyalists were to gather on Thursday evening to pay tribute.

Some 35,000 police were on high alert for street clashes that usually take place on the coup anniversary.

Allende's Marxist-inspired land expropriations and Pinochet's iron-fisted purges split Chile along extremist lines. In the 13 years since the return of democracy, three center-left governments have tread carefully to keep peace

while building on economic modernization started by Pinochet.

The 30th anniversary has become hugely significant, with a frenzy of soul-searching art exhibits, television documentaries and memorial concerts as Chileans seek to understand what their country went through and prevent it from happening again.

Nostalgia over the idealism of the early 1970s has fueled Allende-mania in Chile, though even his supporters now recognize the failure of his socialist programs.

At Allende's mausoleum in Santiago's General Cemetery, leftists from all over Latin America, including Nicaraguan ex-President Daniel Ortega, gathered to pay tribute to him.

"We came not only to remember Salvador Allende, but also to say

that he is alive in the fight against capitalism and the neoliberal economic model," said Jaime Caicedo from Colombia's Communist Party.

But outside Pinochet's house Allende's name was scorned. "The only thing good that Allende did was name Gen. Pinochet to save Chile from Marxism," said right-wing congressman Ivan Moreira.

Allende chose Pinochet as his army chief a month before the coup.

Almost half of Chileans have been born since the coup, but those who were adults vividly remember the fear and uncertainty.

"For thinking differently you were treated as a suspect, you couldn't even talk to someone on a street corner," said Monica de los Angeles Salgado, a painter who was 17 at the time of the coup. *Reuters*



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Israel decides to exile Arafat

JERUSALEM—Israel faced an international outcry on Friday over its decision to "remove" Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, a threat that drew tens of thousands of supporters into



ARAFAT addressing supporters gathered in front of his compound in the city of Ramallah, Sept. 11.

the streets to rally to his defense.

"The decision yesterday turned Arafat into a hero... and that's a shame," commentator Roni Shaked wrote in Israel's largest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

Calling Arafat an obstacle to peace but under US pressure not to exile him after two suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis on Tuesday, Israel's security cabinet vowed on Thursday "to remove" him "in a manner that will be determined separately."

The wording left open options that could include killing Arafat—a proposal which Israeli newspapers said Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz raised but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

shot down—or expelling him from the Palestinian territories.

Sources close to the government said it had asked the army to refresh plans to exile Arafat, but not immediately.

"Exiling Arafat does not help the situation. It is not the solution... All it does is to give him an international stage on which he would continue to be an obstacle to peace," said a White House official, who asked not to be identified.

Thousands of Palestinians flocked on Thursday to Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where Israeli blockades have kept him in virtual confinement for the past 21 months, and pledged to defend him with their lives.

Crowds numbering in the thousands also rallied in other West Bank cities in Arafat's support.

A beaming Arafat blew kisses and flashed the V-for-victory sign. "You are brave people, my loved ones. Abu Ammar is staying here," he said, using his nom de guerre.

Sharon has resisted calls from right-wing supporters who make up his political power base to expel Arafat, fearing the Palestinian leader, largely sidelined internationally, would win world sympathy.

That appeared to be the case after Thursday's decision.

French President Jacques Chirac told a news conference in Spain: "I consider President Arafat the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Authority and I think it would be a serious mistake to seek to eliminate him politically."

The European Union said exiling Arafat would likely escalate Israeli-Palestinian tensions. Russia said expelling him would "wipe away the prospects of a peaceful settlement."

Both are sponsors, along with the United States and United Nations of a peace "road map" battered by a surge of violence.

After the Israeli decision, Palestinian Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qurei suspended efforts to form a cabinet, saying expelling Arafat could "blow up" the Middle East.

Israel and the United States have accused

Arafat, 74, of fomenting violence during a three-year-old uprising for statehood. He denies the charge.

A year ago, Israeli commandos practiced an operation to grab Arafat, bundle him into a helicopter and drop him off in an isolated location abroad, security sources said at the time.

Israeli media reports said an army contingency plan calls for Arafat to be exiled to North Africa. Arafat keeps a pistol at his side and has said he would be ready to die rather than give himself up.

Reuters

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France agrees to lift sanctions on Libya after deal on bombing

PARIS—France said Thursday it was prepared to vote to lift UN sanctions against Libya after the families of those killed in the 1989 bombing of a French jet over Niger reached a compensation deal with Tripoli.

"Now that the families have arrived at an agreement, France naturally no longer has any objection to the UN Security Council voting as soon as possible on the lifting of sanctions against Libya," Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told a joint press conference with representatives of the families.

"I have just informed my American and British counterparts Colin Powell and Jack Straw," De Villepin said.

Minutes before, families' spokesperson Guillaume Denoix de Saint-Marc and lawyer Francis Szpiner announced a deal had been reached to compensate the relatives of the

170 people killed when a DC-10 belonging to the French airliner UTA went down over the west African state of Niger in September 1989.

A Libyan official reached by telephone from Cairo confirmed the deal, telling AFP: "We have reached an accord and an understanding on settling this matter."

Denoix de Saint-Marc said the families had renounced the right to any further legal recourse in either French or international courts.

He added that the DC-10 families and the Kadhafi Foundation, a charity that negotiated for Tripoli, had "expressed their willingness to reach a definitive payment agreement within one month after the signature of this agreement."

"This settlement will lead to a complete reconciliation, and to a re-establishment without reservation of the links between the two peoples," the spokesperson noted. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Swedes, world pay tribute to Lindh

STOCKHOLM—Swedes wept and laid red roses to mourn murdered foreign minister Anna Lindh on Thursday in a wave of national grief and shock as tributes flooded in from world leaders. "Sweden has lost its face toward the world," Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said. In Geneva, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan hailed Lindh as a "great foreign minister, a great Swede and a great European." In Washington, the White House said President George W. Bush and the US people were shocked and saddened by the killing of a "tireless advocate for freedom and peace." Lindh, a 46-year-old mother of two, was stabbed by an unidentified attacker in a Stockholm store on Wednesday. Reuters

US warns of new Internet attacks

WASHINGTON—Government and private cybersecurity experts warned Thursday that the Internet could come under attack from a new virus similar to last month's Blaster worm in the wake of a new Windows flaw revealed by Microsoft. In an advisory late Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity division warned of a "potential for significant impact on Internet operations" as a result of the vulnerability disclosed by the software maker. Microsoft earlier announced the so-called "critical" security problem, similar to one revealed last month that allowed the Blaster worm to spread, affecting most versions of Windows in current use. The flaw "could allow an attacker to remotely compromise a computer running Microsoft Windows and gain complete control over it." AFP

Allies line up with US to set Iran deadline

VIENNA—The United States has gathered more than two dozen allies to force the UN nuclear watchdog to set an Oct. 31 deadline for Iran to demonstrate it is not secretly developing nuclear weapons, diplomats said. The 35-nation Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to vote on a toughly worded draft resolution which gives Iran a last chance to prove it has been complying with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), at Friday's closed-door board session. The United States says Iran has violated the treaty in its effort to develop atomic weapons secretly. Iran denies the allegation, could face economic sanctions if reported to UN Security Council for breach of its NPT obligations. Reuters

Blast destroys US military car in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq—A roadside bomb explosion destroyed a US military Humvee west of Baghdad on Friday, wounding three Americans, witnesses said. They said the Humvee was driving in a convoy on a road outside the town of Fallujah, 50 km west of the Iraqi capital, when the bomb exploded. The wounded soldiers were evacuated from the scene, the witnesses said. A Reuters photographer who arrived after the incident saw blood stains near the burning Humvee. In a separate incident, residents said an attack on a US force in Fallujah shortly after midnight sparked a fierce firefight between Iraqi police and the gunmen in which at least two Iraqis were killed and a Jordanian military hospital was badly damaged by crossfire. One resident said US troops had opened fire on the police but there was no confirmation. Reuters

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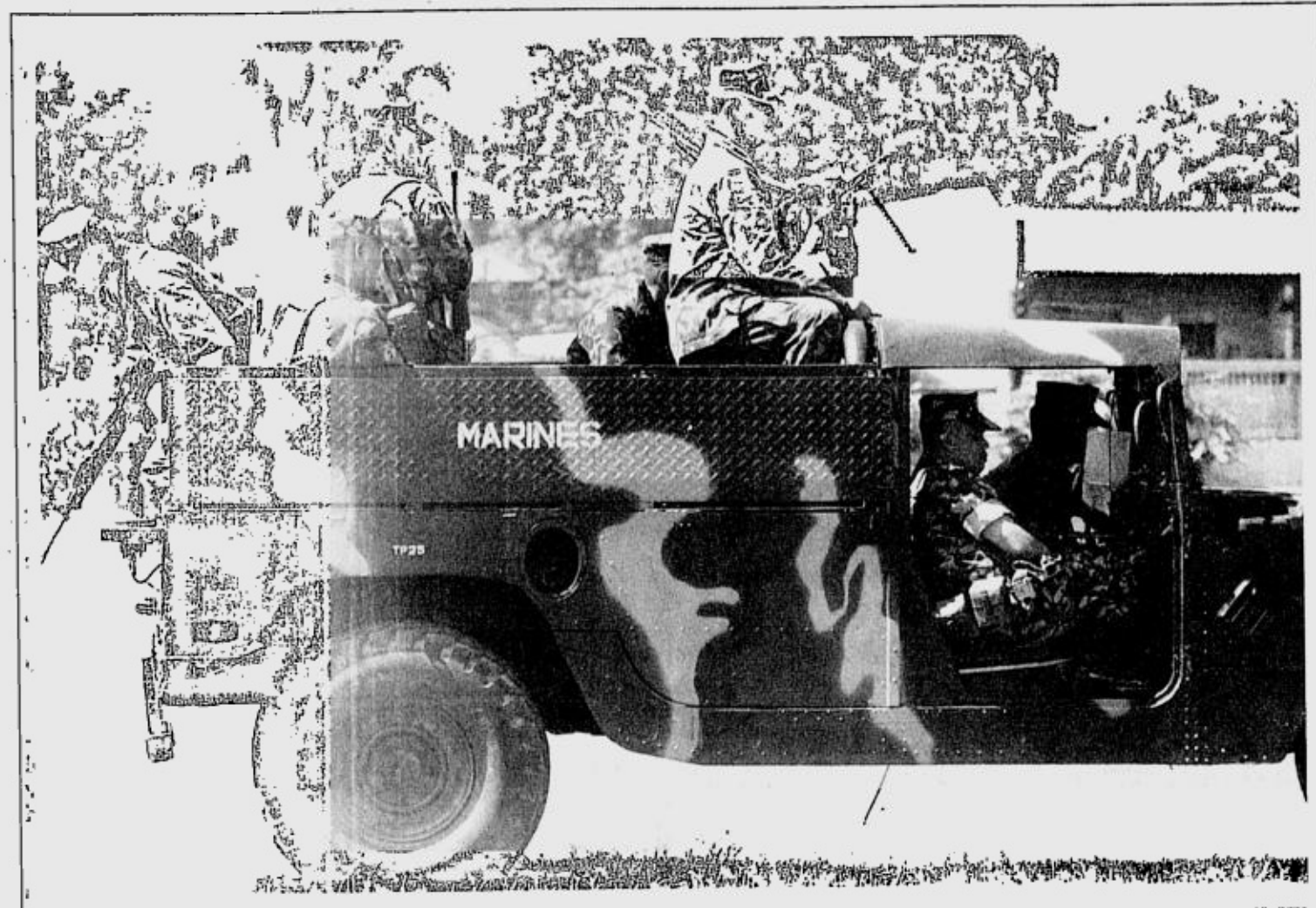
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia



STEADY FORCE

Philippine Marines return to barracks following a training program on counter-terrorism held for them by US soldiers. The soldiers have been put on alert amid threats of another attempt to topple the Macapagal administration.

Maceda says Sept. 30 Danding's 'self-imposed' date to announce '04 bid

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco will announce his decision on or before Sept. 30 if he is running for president in 2004.

Former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda said Cojuangco's self-imposed deadline is already "final."

Cojuangco, chair of the food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., was working out a few more details concerning business and financial matters before making an announcement, he added.

But Maceda said the Nationalist People's Coalition has a shortlist of five potential running mates of Cojuangco, NPC founding chair.

These are administration Sen. Loren Legarda, action "king" Fernando Poe Jr., former Education Secretary Raul Roco and opposition Senators Tito Sotto and Panfilo Lacson.

Roco and Lacson have both signified their intentions to run in the 2004 presidential election.

Legarda and Cojuangco were

both in the 50th birthday celebration of Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras on Thursday in Guihulngan town, Negros Oriental.

Also at the party were Maceda, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon, and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz.

Maceda noted that Legarda was "very friendly" to Cojuangco at the Paras birthday bash.

A source, who attended the party, said Maceda introduced Cojuangco by singing the famous Spaghetti Song of the Sex Bomb but changed the lyrics into: "Si Danding pataas ng pataas, si Gloria pababa ng pababa."

In an interview, Maceda said he was "very positive" that Cojuangco would run for president in 2004.

He said he heard that President Macapagal-Arroyo had finally changed her mind about running for president in 2004 after her husband First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was embroiled in the Jose Pidal controversy.

Mass departure of nurses worry GenSan officials

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Health authorities here are becoming increasingly worried over the number of nurses leaving for better-paying jobs abroad, saying the city faces a shortage of health workers should the trend continue.

Government nurses get at least P9,000 per month while those working in private hospitals get about P6,000.

Depending on the countries of their destination, overseas nurses get from about P50,000 per month.

Fidel Penamante, city health officer, said the mass departure of nurses has already affected the delivery of medical services both in government and private hospitals.

He said that if the trend continues, the city faces a shortage of nurses in two to three years.

Since the exodus started about two years ago, more than 50 nurses here had migrated in search of greener pasture abroad.

In the government-run General Santos Integrated Hospital (GSIH), more than 10 nurses had already resigned. Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bishop seeks help of Bush for Balangiga bells' return

By Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—Bishop Leonardo Medroso of the Diocese of Borongan has taken the initiative to seek the return of the bells of Balangiga town, Eastern Samar that were taken as war trophies by American soldiers in 1901.

He said he planned to write US President George W. Bush and other concerned people about the Balangiga bells.

Although the US Congress passed a resolution urging the bells' return, Medroso said "we are not so sure yet" if President Bush would bring the bells during his visit to the country in October.

"That is why, I'll also write a letter to President Bush to somehow, if possible, to bring the bells to where they belong," he said.

With Balangiga under his jurisdiction, Medroso said he has the responsibility also to assume the initiative to have the bells returned to where they really be-

long—to the people of Balangiga. Medroso, however, made a call "to our people to be more subdued in our appeal to the American people and also subdued in our appeal to these responsible people so that perhaps, with this kind of way and means, they would give the bells back."

Groups

The "responsible people" Medroso was referring to are some groups in Wyoming who are opposed to the return of the bells to the Philippines. He said he would also send them letters.

"We know that they really lost also lives (of) their love ones. We

understand that. But again the (bells) are religious articles... and therefore they belong to the church," Medroso told the INQUIRER in an interview on Thursday at the Bishop's Residence here.

The bishop said the bells were religious artifacts and should have not been taken from the belfry of the Balangiga Church.

American soldiers captured the town of Balangiga on Oct. 18, 1901. When they left, they brought along the church bells.

Medroso cited Abraham Lincoln who had issued an order in 1864 defining specific articles that should be respected and not be taken as trophies of war and these included church property.

Two of the three ancient Balangiga bells are now at the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The third bell is reportedly in a US Army camp in South Korea.

The ringing of the bells early in the morning of Sept. 28, 1901 signaled the start of the assault on the American garrison in Balangiga by local revolutionaries.

Wilderness

The natives almost wiped out the enemy. But when the Americans retaliated, they turned Samar into a "howling wilderness."

Despite the bitter past, the next generation of Balangiga residents fought side by side with American soldiers during the Second World War.

In Resolution 268, the US Congress recognizes that Filipino soldiers fought on the side of the Americans in World War II and during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The resolution also said the bells of Balangiga "should be more properly serve as a symbol of friendship and cooperation

and not of unfortunate misunderstanding and conflict."

Celebration

The continued absence of the bells in Balangiga has not stopped local officials and residents to prepare for the 102nd Balangiga Encounter celebration on Sept. 28.

Lawyer Floro Balato Jr., Eastern Samar provincial administrator, told the INQUIRER that the highlight of this year's celebration is the inauguration of the Balangiga Encounter Monument in Balangiga town.

The multimillion-peso monument, designed by national artist Napoleon Abueva, depicts a scene of that historic event in 1901.

It stands on one side of the plaza located between the church and the municipal building.

The Balangiga Encounter Day is a holiday in the province of Eastern Samar.

Top UN exec condemns unsolved murders of Philippine journalists

BAGUIO CITY—A top United Nations official has joined the worldwide condemnation of the series of unsolved killings of journalists in the Philippines, the latest of which was the Sept. 6 assassination of Davao-based radio commentator Juan "Jun" Porras Pala.

"I condemn this series of assassinations, among the dozens that have been carried out against members of the press in the Philippines in recent years," UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura said in a Sept. 10 press statement issued in Paris.

He said the killings "undermine the Philippines' proven commitment to freedom of the press since the return of democracy in 1986."

Six journalists have been killed this year and not one of the killings has been solved. Neither were the cases of 43 other journalists who had been killed since the return of democracy in 1986.

"As long as the gun is used to muzzle journalists, there can be no real freedom of expression," said Matsuura. "This is why, mindful of democracy and of the fundamental human right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I support the government of the Philippines in its determination to investigate these crimes and punish their perpetrators."

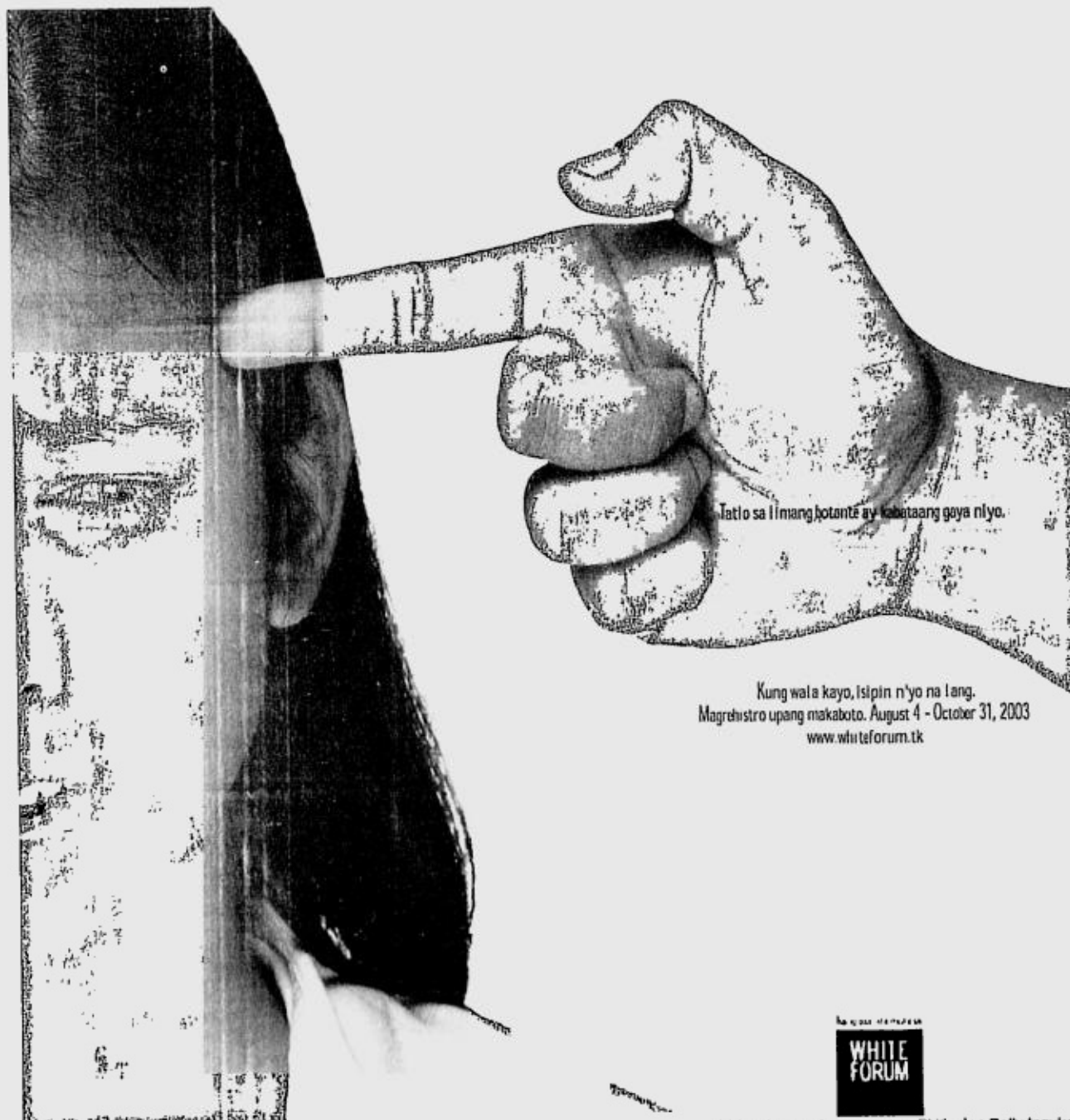
Matsuura's condemnation was the latest international voice against the worrisome state of the media in the country, which is now being likened to the notorious killing of journalists in Colombia.

Earlier, the Washington D.C.-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) took the Philippine government to task for the threats on the lives of Filipino journalists.

IFJ president Christopher Warren on Sept. 4 wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo to urge her government to condemn the continuing attacks on journalists, order an immediate investigation of the killings, and take measures to ensure the safety of journalists in the country.

"Murder and violent attacks on journalists are the worst forms of attack on press freedom and civil society," Warren said as he noted "a disturbing lack of action by the government of the Philippines." He said no cases relating to the murder of journalists have been solved since 1986.

When Warren wrote Ms. Macapagal, the Philippines had five journalists killed this year, or just one short of Colombia's six journalists killed for the same period. With Pala's killing, the Philippines is now at par with Colombia, he said. Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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MILF honoring truce, says Palace official

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has been abiding by its ceasefire agreement with the government, according to a Malacañang official.

National security adviser Roilo Golez said evidence of this has been the lack of skirmishes between the military and the rebel group since the peace talks resumed this year.

The latest large-scale clash was recorded months ago, right after the Siocon and Maigo attacks, when President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to crush terrorist cells in Mindanao.

Golez said evidence of the MILF's commitment to the peace process was the inactivity of its ground forces.

"In fact for the first week of September this year, there is zero activity on the part of the MILF. And that's good because the peace process is working," Golez said.

He said this could further boost the chances of peace talks resuming between the government and the MILF.

The formal peace negotiations would resume in Kuala Lumpur next month after exploratory talks in the Malaysian capital were held last week.

"That only shows there is a very good positive co-relation (sic) between the peace talks and the activity in the ground. It reduces, one, the number of insurgents and two, the number of incidents," Golez said.

He said the government's military activity against the MILF has also been put on hold.

"We want peace that is good for the country because the dream of everybody is to convert Central Mindanao not only into a zone of peace but a zone of development as well. The potentials of Central Mindanao are so great. Experts even say that if we can maximize the productivity of Central Mindanao, it can provide a food requirement for the entire country," Golez said.

In Iligan City, key Muslim leaders said they were also doubling their effort to boost the peace process by bridging understanding between Muslims, *lumad* and Christians.

During enthronement rites at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), some 44 newly crowned *sultans* and *bae* (women leaders) vowed to catalyze unity and understanding in the barangay level by brokering talks between feuding groups.

Sultan Ustadz Abdul Majid Gandawali told the INQUIRER that personal feuds between Muslims and Christians had in the past contributed to skirmishes between the military and the MILF.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said their technical committee on the cessation of hostilities has been working on a reliable truce mechanism aimed at thwarting clashes with government forces running after criminal elements in MILF-occupied territories. *Rosa-May de Guzman with reports by Charlie Señase and Jeffrey Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Laoag officials seek sacking of customs chief

LAOAG CITY—Provincial board members have sought the relief of the Bureau of Customs chief here for her alleged involvement in the illegal shipment of imported shrimp fry at the Laoag International Airport.

Customs Collector Jocelyn Estigoy failed to convince members of the Ilocos Norte provincial board that the 44 boxes of live shrimp fry that came from Kaoshiung, Taiwan, and seized in July this year was the only illegal shipment that took place under her watch.

Estigoy also came under fire for allegedly allowing her husband to meddle in customs operations in the city.

Board Member Da Vinci Crisostomo, chair of the committee on laws, said the 44 boxes of fry were the fifth illegal shipment at the Laoag airport from March to April this year.

He said all the cargo, amounting to P2 billion, were shipped from Taiwan through the Far Eastern Air Transport.

"Reports point at orchestrated efforts (by the customs bureau) to pave the way for the entry of prohibited goods into the country," Crisostomo said in a resolution approved on Sept. 1.

The board earlier invited Estigoy to a committee hearing and asked her to explain the circumstances of the July shipment.

Estigoy further courted suspicions when she admitted before the committee that she sought the services of her husband, who is not an employee of the customs bureau, in transporting the seized boxes from the airport to the regional office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Only Estigoy couple facilitated the transfer of the seized shrimp fry shipments from the airport to San Fernando City in La Union.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. earlier expressed suspicion that the shipment contained liquefied drugs, noting that a fraction of the 44 boxes contained only clear and odorous liquid.

Ablan demanded that heads must roll at the customs bureau in a privilege speech he delivered earlier this month at the House of Representatives. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor claims scam in voters' list-up

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Irregularities have attended the registration for the 2004 elections of at least 170 members of the religious sect Ang Dating Daan in Apalit, the town's mayor, Tirso Lacanilao, claimed.

But the Commission on Elections, wrapping up its investigation of the claim on Sept. 10, refuted these.

Lacanilao, in a complaint to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, claimed that registrar Joselito Matias allowed the registration of "non-resident applicants" from the group, which maintains a church in a five-hectare complex outside the town center.

He submitted a list of names of 170 Ang Dating Daan members who, he said, were "not even listed" as residents of Barangay Sampaloc.

Lacanilao told Abalos that Matias held registration beyond the allowed time.

The mayor requested the "transfer or pull-out" of Matias, preferring somebody who is "capable of screening new applicants or somebody who can implement a system toward the realization of our common dream in coming up with a reliable new list of voters."

However, lawyer Temie Lambino, Comelec Pampanga supervisor, said he believed Matias did not violate any rule on the registration and validation of voters.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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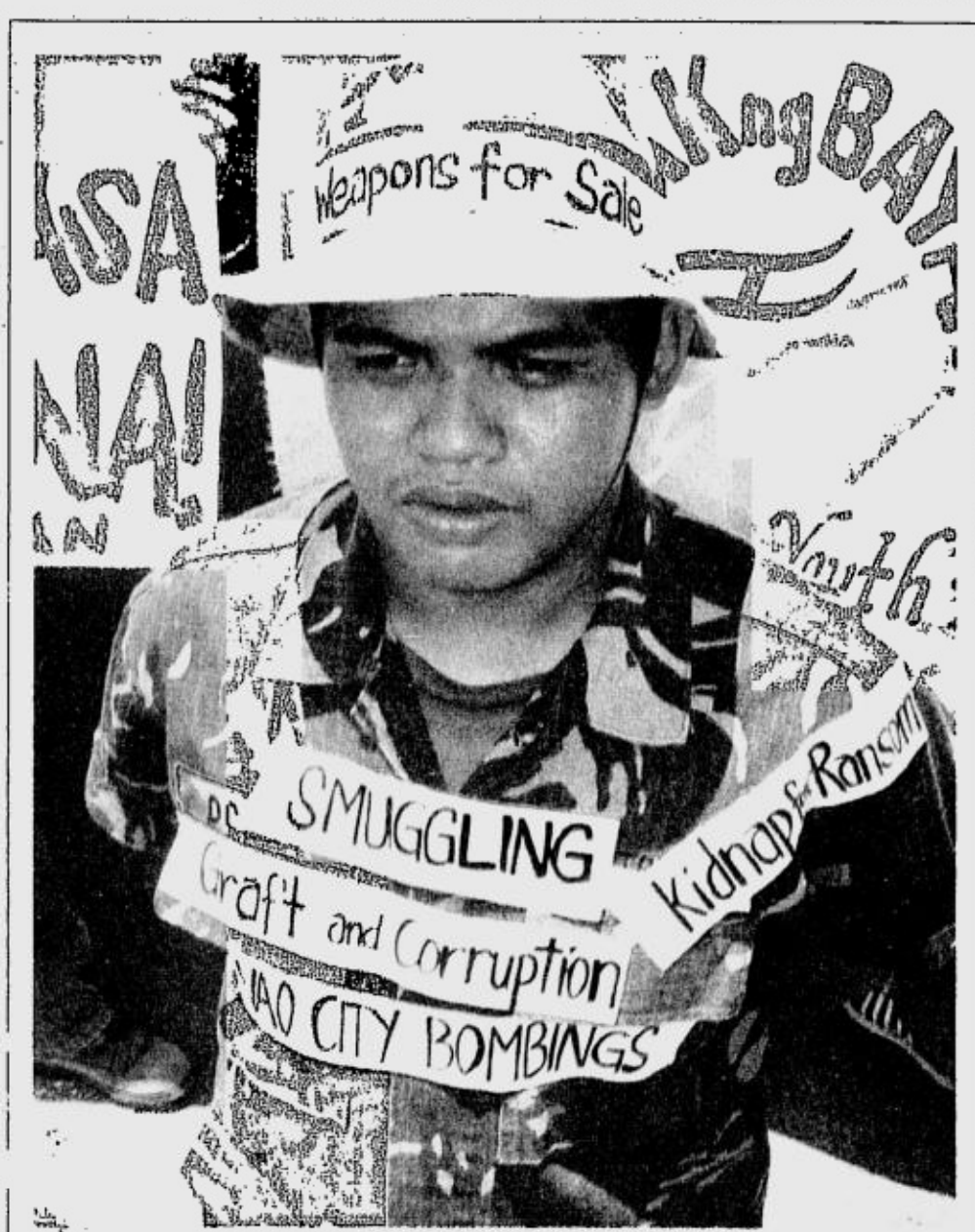
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MESSAGES A protester wears his thoughts on his shirt as leftist groups hold rallies in Davao City against controversies now hounding the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bontoc youths initiate cleanup of Chico River

By Vincent Cebreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Youths of Bontoc town in Mt. Province have persuaded their elders to begin a town-wide dredging of the 80-km Chico River, where their community has been dumping their trash for ages. This town's Smokey Mountain will then be farmed back to Bontoc's barangays, which must now decide how their garbage will be disposed of in the next few weeks, the INQUIRER learned. The plight of Chico River was raised in May before the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) by the local governments of Kalinga, whose ricefarms rely on this river for irrigation and nourishment, said Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, also RDC chair. Lyn Madalang, executive director of Ebgan Inc., one of the non-government organizations leading the cleanup drive, said the town never had problems with their disposal system until fast food waste by-products began to change their social landscape. The drive will coincide with Bontoc's annual charter anniversary on Sept. 16. Chico River spans at least 11 towns of Mt. Province and Kalinga. The Kalinga government appealed to the RDC after they encountered problems marketing their white water rafting

tourism program. "The Chico (waters) are too shallow and tourists are starting to complain," Molintas said. **Cleanup** Instead of being slighted by the complaints, Bontoc's youths mobilized a cleanup campaign to generate "a total community consciousness about our solid waste problems," said Madalang, a Mt. Province native. The youth groups approached Bontoc Mayor Luis Claver last month with their plan to gradually remove decades-old trash from the Bontoc dump at the Chico River banks of Barangay Callulit, she said. "He immediately approved it, so everyone next week would be busy picking up plastics and styrofoam from the banks of Chico (River). This was not a usual practice. Before, we were used to burying our trash because these were biodegradable. Now, we have to contend with plastic," Madalang said. The same youths are preparing a play to commemorate their efforts at Chico River, Madalang said. "The Chico River has an old name but no contemporary Bontoc knows it. But the river used to have an abundance of fish we call gachew, and this characterized life near the river," she said. Madalang had been lobbying with a local women's group for years to develop an alternative dumping system

for Bontoc. "But the macho decisions prevailed. We were trying to sell the idea of incinerators, but when news emerged from Manila that incinerators could cause impotence, the male officials immediately junked the idea," she said. Madalang said the youth groups' decision to return the trash to the barangays might prove to be controversial. "But the barangays need to be involved, and this way, the government and the community leaders can finally agree to develop a sanitary method of disposing their trash," she said. **Tests** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources confirmed the Chico River's pollution problems after conducting a series of water quality tests. In a July 4 report, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau acknowledged that Bontoc had been dumping garbage in a landfill near the Chico River banks "since the 1990s." The Callulit dump is about 2 km from the central Bontoc community. The dump is protected by a riprap wall, which fails to cope with rising river tides, which could account for the pollution, according to the EMB. Another open river dump in Sitio Gusod in Barangay Ampawilan in nearby Sadanga town, the report said.

ROUNDUP
New town mayor
SAN ANTONIO, Zambales—The Commission on Elections' first division last week ordered Mayor Romeo Lonzanida of this town to vacate his office as it declared his rival, Juan Alvarez, winner in the 2001 elections. In a ruling issued by the division headed by Commissioner Rufino Javier, Alvarez was found winner over Lonzanida by 377 votes based on the "revised, appreciated and recounted tally of votes." The ruling annulled Lonzanida's proclamation by the regional trial court in Iba town on Jan. 9 this year. Lonzanida filed a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ships to Cagayan Valley
ILAGAN, Isabela—Investments are expected to pour into Northeastern Luzon as the government starts the groundwork to link Aurora, Isabela and Cagayan through the "Roll on-Roll off" (Roro) transport system. Vitaliano Nañagas II, chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, said the government's P500-million Roro ports program would link trade and industry development in these three provinces. Nañagas recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Governors Faustino Dy Jr. (Isabela), Edgar Lara (Cagayan) and Ramoncita Ong (Aurora) for the seaport connections in their provinces to open up trade investments and other business and tourism-related projects. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Jailed woman flees
BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A woman inmate, who is facing murder charges, escaped from the provincial jail on Tuesday, reports said. Reynaldo Agaton, acting provincial warden, said inmate Gemma Odlico, 23, escaped while she and her fellow prisoners were busy working on their vegetable garden at the unfenced jail compound at around 3 p.m. Tuesday. Agaton said Odlico was last seen walking toward the canteen at the provincial capitol, some 100 meters from the detention center. Odlico was jailed for allegedly stabbing and killing a man in a bar in Solano town in May. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Shop cashier slain
CABANATUAN CITY—A 24-year-old woman was killed inside a pawnshop here on Tuesday afternoon. Police identified the victim as Mary Jane Mabalacat, cashier of the RBN Pawnshop. Police said the suspect or suspects strangled the victim using the nylon cord of an electric fan. There was no sign of forcible entry in the pawnshop and the establishment's main door was locked. An undetermined amount of cash and jewelry was missing from the pawnshop, police said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Fewer tourists in Subic
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Fewer tourists visited the Subic Bay Freeport in the first six months of 2003 compared to the same period last year, records from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's tourism department showed. The SBMA said the freeport drew 3.7 million tourists in the first half of this year, 16.8 percent lower than the 4.5 million visitors during the same period in 2002. Armin Santos, head of the SBMA tourism department, said the decrease could be linked to the peace and order situation in the country and terrorism threats. Santos also cited the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome as a factor that affected the tourist arrival. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Worms infest farms
BACOLOD CITY—At least 239.49 hectares of rice and sugarcane farms have been damaged by army worm and cutworm infestation in four towns and a city in Negros Occidental. Affected were the towns of Ilog, Moises Padilla, La Castellana and Cauayan, and Kabankalan City. Hit by army worms were Ilog where some 43 hectares of riceland were damaged; La Castellana, 25 hectares of rice and sugarcane; and Cauayan, 39 hectares. The worms invaded more than 101 hectares of sugarcane and ricefields in Kabankalan and 15 hectares in Moises Padilla. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Family starts new life in home province

By Joey A. Gabieta
Tacloban City

AFTER almost five months on the road, they are finally home. And it was a long journey indeed.

The seven members of the Villanueva family arrived in Tacloban last Sunday night, a heartwarming finish to their long trip from Quezon City that started in April when they boarded their pedicabs, locally known as *sikad-sikad*, to pedal their way back to Leyte.

Jose Villanueva, 54, is happy and relieved that despite all difficulties, they have reached their destination and have put behind their miserable life in Quezon City.

Mano Jose, his daughter Maricris, 19; her husband Mateo Bondi, 34; and their daughter Marilyn, 10; Mark Anthony, 4; Marjorette, 2; and three-week-old Mark Christopher have temporarily settled at the Department of Social Welfare and Development provincial office.

During their first day of stay at the DSWD, the first thing the children did was to take a good bath, something they had not done very well for a long time.

The family will stay at the DSWD here while the provincial government has yet to construct their home in Palo town, Leyte, said Clotilde Malatbalat, DSWD provincial officer.

Mano Jose traces his roots in Barangay Luntad, Palo. In 1986, he decided to move to



JOSE Villanueva (right) and his son-in-law Mateo Bondi rest at the DSWD office in Tacloban City, after their grueling trip on board two tricycles.

Manila, believing that greener pastures await him and his daughter in the Big City.

Crushed dreams

But the dream turned into a nightmare as life became more difficult for them instead.

His daughter was not able to finish school. Maricris finished only grade three. When she

was 15, she eloped with Bondi, a native of Tanauan town, Leyte.

Marilyn is Bondi's child from his first wife but Maricris has grown to love the girl like her own daughter.

The family lived in a shanty, which they rented for P500 a month, at an urban poor area in Fairview, Quezon City. Their makeshift house in East Avenue was burned down a few years ago.

Mano Jose, a widower, said that to survive the daily grind in Manila, he used to drive his pedicab to sell all sorts of "panindas."

On good days, Mano Jose would earn between P100 and P200. But there were days when Mano Jose would only be able to bring home P20, not even enough to buy a kilo of rice for a family of seven.

Maricris said she helped by selling cigarettes. Her husband, on the other hand, rummaged through piles of garbage for whatever could be sold later.

But no matter how strong and resilient a person is, he is eventually worn down by hardships.

"Our life there was getting miserable every day. It was becoming very difficult for us to survive. I have no choice but to pack our belongings and return here in Leyte," said Mano Jose in Waray.

He could no longer bear seeing the members of his family suffer. One day, he asked his children to come with him and return to Leyte.

"I did not find any difficulty in convincing them to join me and come back to Leyte," he said.

"They very well understood that nothing good would happen to us if we continued to live there. Life there is only good for those who have the means unlike us," he said without any trace of regret.

Homeward bound

With only P1,500 in their pockets, the family packed their bags at about 4 a.m. of April 26 and pedaled their way to Leyte, about 850 kilometers from Manila.

Mano Jose and Bondi drove the pedicabs, which Mano Jose considered as "my most precious possessions outside my family." With them was Whitey, their dog whom they considered as a member of the family.

To protect them from the elements, the two units of the pedicabs were covered with cellophane and rice sacks. At night, they slept on the sidecars, using bamboo slits as their "beds."

Their journey was difficult. Maricris was five months pregnant at that time. Mano Jose could not also go fast because he had appendectomy operation two years ago.

Mano Jose and Bondi pedaled from every 4 or 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. They hardly paid attention to their personal needs like taking a good bath.

Still, they were happy. Their long voyage brought them together and gave them memories and wonderful experiences.

Maricris considered their life in the *sikad-sikad*, a blessing in disguise. "It made us closer. In Quezon City, we were all busy with how to survive... where we can get our daily needs."

"During our days on the road, we did not fail to ask guidance and assistance from the Lord. He must be really good to us because we did not encounter any difficulties during our travel," Maricris said.

Trials and triumphs

The biggest trial was when Maricris gave birth in Iriga City on Aug. 19. The baby had a cleft upper lip, just like his sister Marjorette.

The hospital did not make them pay for her delivery but they had to buy the medicines. Soon, the family ran out of money.

So, the family members ate small portions of whatever food they had. Sometimes, there were Good Samaritans who gave them food.

The family was stranded in Daraga, Albay due to heavy rains last Sept. 9. Dalan Barcelon, reporter of radio station dwZR, spotted them while eating inside their pedicabs.

The reporter brought the family to the radio station for safety and initiated ways to help them.

Albay Vice Gov. James Calisin asked their provincial health officer to check on the health condition of the family members who had coughs and fever.

The Bicolandia Lines gave them free transportation to Matnog, Sorsogon where they took the ferry to Allen town, Northern Samar. The ferry tickets were provided by the Maritime Industry Authority in Bicol.

Leyte Vice Gov. Nestor Villasin said Calisin informed him on Saturday night that the Villanueva family would arrive in Allen the next day.

Villasin informed Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla who then asked the DSWD-Leyte to fetch the family at the ferry terminal in Allen.

Early morning of Sunday, Malatbalat and her staff members Fely Pedregosa and Leonilo Espinosa drove to Allen port, about 306 km south of Tacloban.

The assistance provided to the family by the Bicol and Leyte provincial governments cut short the Villanuevas' travel time. Mano Jose had estimated an eight-month journey as he calculated that they would arrive in Leyte in December.

Assistance

"I was amazed of Mano Jose's strong determination. He is also the kind of person who will not solely depend on dole-outs. A weaker soul could not have done what he has done," said Malatbalat.

Petilla directed Malatbalat to have the family undergo medical examinations. She also gave orders to include Mark and Marjorette as beneficiaries in the medical mission in April 2004 to be conducted by Interplast, a United States non-government organization, to correct their cleft palate.

The family will also be provided with their daily needs while they are under the care of the DSWD, Malatbalat said. For a start, the family was given a sack of rice, canned goods and noodles and beddings.

The Leyte provincial government is also planning to build a modest house for the family in Barangay Barayong, a resettlement area in Palo.

Starting again

"I want to start a new life here in Leyte. I plan to make use of the *sikad-sikad* to peddle goods," he said.

The family planned to use the P15,000-cash assistance given to them by the provincial government to start a small business like vending, Jose said. He also planned to have a sideline in repairing appliances.

Mano Jose said he believes that their bad fortune will come to its end now that they are in Leyte. "I want to see (my grandchildren) finish their studies," he said.

The same wish was shared by Maricris and Bondi whose eldest daughter only finished grade one. "We are happy that there are still good people in our midst willing to help poor people like us. And we are happy that finally, we are now here in Leyte," Mano Jose said.

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Goodwill tour

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 8 has sparked some quibbling over why he is spending only eight hours in Manila. But it is trivializing the event to focus on such details as that he is spending more hours in the Philippines than the three hours he will be in Singapore, Indonesia and Australia and to read too many meanings into this. More important is that Bush's

EDITORIAL

Manila visit is part of a swing to the Asia-Pacific region, the highlight of which is the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, hosted by Thailand.

Without doubt, the highlight of the Manila visit will be Bush's address to a joint session of Congress, at which we should expect major foreign and economic policy pronouncements affecting the entire region. This event pushes to the frills such ceremonial functions as the Filipino barrio fiesta and the state dinner being prepared for him.

During Bush's abbreviated visit to the region, the Manila agenda will cram the address to Congress, bilateral meetings with Filipino leaders to seal issues on cooperation in the war on terrorism and economic assistance, issues that have been left hanging from the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States last May. Much of the eight hours Bush will spend in Manila will be devoted to bilateral meetings.

While three hours are allocated for working meetings on bilateral issues in Bangkok, the Apec summit will serve as the venue where Bush will discuss regional issues with Apec leaders, including the contentious trade issues at the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, and the tensions over the nuclear weapons of North Korea.

Part of the purpose of Bush's swing to selected Asian states is to express the US government's appreciation for their diplomatic support for the US invasion of Iraq. Only three of the countries to be visited are members of the coalition of the willing: the Philippines, Australia and Singapore. Australia sent 2,000 troops to fight in Iraq, plus a few warships and jet fighters.

Thailand was lukewarm to the US-led war on Iraq, although it allowed transit rights for US forces en route to the Gulf during the war. Indonesia, an Islamic state, withheld support for the US war policy, but there is an important reason why Bush is visiting Jakarta, aside from having an opportunity to meet Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri: Indonesia has been rocked by terrorist attacks and Jakarta's success in its crackdown on terrorist groups has a bearing on the US war on terrorism.

The politically embattled Macapagal administration expects to derive some political windfall from the Bush visit, which is seen as a concrete manifestation of the close alliance between the Philippines and the United States in the war on terror as well as an expression of confidence in her leadership. In Asia Pacific, the Philippines is among the few nations that gave unqualified support to the US-led war on terror and its military action in Iraq.

Bush is making the visits at a time when the United States needs friends as its international goodwill has eroded on the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist bombings. Two years ago, the bombings created worldwide sympathy for the United States and support for its war on terror. This goodwill has turned into loathing and indifference in the wake of the US-led invasion of Iraq. The invasion has left in ruins the historic alliance with Europe and the allied military occupation of Iraq has intensified anti-US resentment in the Islamic world.

A worldwide press survey of the mood in Europe, Asia and in the Islamic world during the second anniversary of 9/11 indicates a rising tide of anti-US sentiment. The resentment stems from unilateral tendencies of US foreign policy and from its preemptive use of military power to enforce its foreign policy, downgrading the importance of diplomacy in resolving conflicts and ignoring the role of the United Nations. Even in the United States, criticism is growing of the administration's policy on Iraq and its consequences to America's standing as the sole super power in the world.

In his visits on the periphery of Apec, Bush appears to be trying to rebuild the international goodwill he has lost on narrow grounds.



The right to privacy

A LITTLE knowledge is a dangerous thing. Those who have made hasty conclusions about the right to privacy may have exhibited what Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando once called "the valor of ignorance."

In questioning Ignacio Arroyo's invocation of his right to privacy, some senators have expressed the limited view that this right applies only to communication and correspondence under Art. III, Sec. 3(1) of the Constitution. All other matters are, by exclusion, not protected by the Bill of Rights against government intrusion, including legislative investigations.

The right to privacy, otherwise known as the right to be left alone, is guaranteed by Section 2 of the Bill of Rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. The privacy of persons, houses, papers and effects is inviolable except by virtue of a warrant based upon probable cause. This has to be determined personally by a judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and persons or things to be seized.

Under the succeeding provision, the privacy of communication and correspondence cannot be violated except upon lawful order of the court or when public safety or order requires otherwise as prescribed by law.

Freedom of expression under Section 4 protects the individual's right to speak freely on any matter that "touches the heart of the existing order" but not on any subject that has no bearing on the public interest. Public comment on private matters is an invasion of the right to privacy that may be validly prohibited and punished under the police power.

Elsewhere in the Bill of Rights, a new provision prevents a person's detention "solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations."

Freedom of religion under Section 5 includes a person's right to believe and also his

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



right not to believe if he sees fit. The State may not interfere with his religious views as long as they are confined within the realm of thought and not externalized in acts that offend the public welfare. It has been held that men may believe what they cannot prove and may not be held to account for such beliefs.

The right to information is recognized under Section 7 but only on matters of public concern, not, for example, on the amatory relations of a private individual with another person also not connected with a public office or cause.

Also included in Art. III is the right against self-incrimination under Section 17, which is available to all witnesses, whether accused or not, who may validly refuse to testify on matters affecting their private status or acts. And there is, of course, Art. VI, Sec. 21, which provides that the rights of persons appearing in or affected by legislative investigations shall be respected.

In the landmark case of *US v. Bustos*, 37 Phil. 731, the Supreme Court, in sustaining public comment upon official acts, said that "a public official must not be too thin-skinned with reference to comment upon his official acts." In fact, even his private life is now open to public scrutiny and criticism, as in the case of Joseph Estrada and his harem of paramours.

This is true even of a private person in the public limelight, like a candidate for public office or even one who is involuntarily drawn into the public limelight. In *Rosenbloom v.*

Metromedia, 403 US 29, the petitioner claimed that his right to privacy was violated when the newspapers mentioned him among those arrested by the New York police for selling lewd publications. The US Supreme Court held that his involvement in a public matter, viz., the anti-pornography campaign, made him a proper subject of public comment although he was a private person.

I sympathize with the frustrations of the Senate investigating committees over Ignacio Arroyo's invocation of his right to privacy in refusing to explain the source of his million-peso deposits. Even so, I do not see how they can compel him to relieve their doubts, considering that, so far, the questioned deposits are of private money protected by bank secrecy laws.

Lacson says they belong to Mike Arroyo, but the latter is also a private citizen, and the evidence of corruption against him consists only of unreliable photocopies. Moreover, the deposits may be of unused campaign contributions, which are not illegal per se.

Can a legislative investigating committee require a person without any taint or suspicion of criminality to reveal the sources of his bank deposits? May not such person validly protest this official intrusion into his private affairs? This is what Ignacio Arroyo is doing, and can continue doing, as long as substantial and admissible evidence is not presented against him to weaken his constitutional right to be left alone.

Against the rantings of a senator that the right to privacy has no constitutional basis, the Supreme Court has said in *Valmonte v. Belmonte*, 170 SCRA 256: "There can be no doubt that the right to privacy is constitutionally protected." And Chief Justice Fernando (again) is quoted thus: "The right to privacy as such is accorded recognition independently of its identification with liberty; in itself, it is fully deserving of constitutional protection."

Stopping the Senate probe

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



where to get off were Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law, and Fe Becina Macalino, acting president of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines.

Iggy has admitted/claimed that he is the Jose Pidal that Sen. Panfilo Lacson mentioned in his "exposé." He also said that the Pidal accounts were opened at a time when it was not prohibited by law, and was common business practice, for security reasons. They were closed before the signing of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Iggy's assertions, if substantiated, would mean that: (a) neither the President nor her spouse, who were the targets of Lacson's "exposé," were involved; and (b) there was no crime committed in so far as the anti-money laundering or anti-graft and corruption laws were concerned, which was Lacson's assertion.

The substantiation came from two separate sources: police handwriting experts (government, and therefore, alas, suspect) who testified that Iggy Arroyo's signature as Jose Pidal—which he signed at least 10 times before both the media and the police—strongly matched the Jose Pidal signature in Lacson's possession; and the commercial banks involved (private, with no axes to grind), which accepted the written authorization signed by Iggy Arroyo as Jose Pidal allowing Senate President Franklin Drilon to withdraw any money found in those accounts. The banks submitted written statements saying that the Pidal accounts had been closed: one in 2000, the other in 2001. Which meant, there was no money in the Pidal accounts as of July 2003.

Which would lead any clear-thinking person to question Lacson's assertions, suspecting, in the absence of an iota of evidence, either misinformation or mendacity. After all, one of the assertions he had made in his privilege speech was that "as of July 2003," the Pidal accounts had millions in them. In fact, the entire structure of Lacson's story was based on the existence of those accounts.

But the Senate, instead of pursuing this course, preferred to play games with Iggy Arroyo, which he objected to. Since there was no public interest involved, he said, he invoked his right to privacy.

The Senate did the same thing with the banks, asking them for more information than already supplied with the depositor's written consent. This is where Macalino came in, and where the senators were hoisted with their own petard. She reminded them, in a most polite, no-nonsense manner, of the Bank Secrecy Law which their predecessors had passed, and the Anti-Money Laundering Act, which they themselves had passed. And when Sen. Edgardo Angara tried to stop her by threatening to ask her about the provisions of Amla, she called his bluff. She knew whereof she spoke.

The memo that Macalino submitted to Sen. Joker Arroyo's blue ribbon committee speaks for itself. Aside from the legal dissertation, which shows that the only real exceptions to bank secrecy is disclosure by written consent of the depositor or disclosure by order of a competent court (the Senate is neither), she also notes that "when given the opportunity to eliminate the intervention of the court in inquiring into bank deposits...the following senators voted to require a court order before an inquiry can be made into a bank account: Amara, Oreta, Arroyo, Biazon, Estrada, Honasan, Lacson, Legarda, Osmeña (J), Pimentel, Sotto, Villar."

Bully for her. Let's face it. These hearings are not in aid of legislation, but of political ambitions. It's time to cut losses.

Blank wall

SENATE President Franklin Drilon hit the nail on the head when he challenged Sen. Panfilo Lacson to present evidence that the alleged deposits in the Jose Pidal accounts were public funds. So far Lacson has claimed that those accounts contained mainly campaign funds, but as various legal experts noted, these are strictly private funds; unless he can prove those were public funds, says Drilon, then the Senate investigations have to end as they face a "blank wall." There's a clamor for terminating them indeed.

Incidentally, the producer of those two power-point exposés of Lacson was veteran ad man Greg Garcia, who retired from the Leo Burnett-Hemisphere ad agency but remains part owner. The firm has some high-powered clients such as San Miguel Corp. (except the Coke account), all brands of Universal Robina, McDonald's, Is-lacom and Western Union. I had earlier wondered, however, how foreign partner Leo Burnett relishes the idea of the ad agency getting embroiled in a political controversy. But now, with all the banks denying the existence of Jose Pidal accounts, as Lacson has alleged, another point at issue is, where is the "truth in advertising" the ad agency adheres to? Or is it just business?

In Subic Freeport recently for the reunion of PMA Class '61 hosted by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) deputy administrator Vic Mamon, we were joined by SBMA chair Felicitio Payumo and I queried him about how Subic was faring with the slowdown in business. Payumo, who marks his 5th year in the post, explained that while it had been largely dependent on the electronics and semiconductor business, it did not experience a reduction in export volume despite the market shrinking last year. In fact, last year's exports grew by \$200 million over 2001's due to the fact that the big computer company Acer switched its order to its Subic plant when it closed down its Europe plant. He said the Subic plant won over Shanghai's plant, despite the vaunted cheap Chinese labor, proving that "there's more to competitiveness than just cheap labor."

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Payumo stressed that what won Acer, now renamed Winstrom, was the fast turn-around time that Subic guarantees in this age of "just in time inventory." Meaning, raw materials and parts can be delivered to the plant within a day or two, and when necessary, air cargo delivery by FedEx can be done within three hours after arrival, with a container by the plane's doorside, which is "hard to beat." Payumo added that SBMA's processing department works even on Sundays, when an export shipment is scheduled. Another plus is Subic's strategy of "supplier-clustering" which brings in the makers of parts that used to be imported. In Winstrom's case, it now orders items it used to import such as casings for laptops, plastic mouldings, micrometers, cooling systems and even printed manuals from across the street.

But the SBMA chair admits that the electronic market continues to be sluggish this year, as evidenced by the first-semester slump of Winstrom's volume to \$295 million compared to \$588 million in the same period last year. In anticipation of a slowdown this second semester, he said SBMA's strategy is to reduce its dependence on the electronics industry, and this has paid off with non-electronic, value-adding companies improving over their exports. For instance, Juken Sanghyo, which processes pine lumber from New Zealand in Subic for export to Japan, has more than doubled its production. The same is true of other Subic-based companies like Subic Bay Apparel, which supplies garments to US prestige store Brooks Brothers; aircraft parts manufacturer D.J. Aerospace and ATM products maker Omron Mechatronic.

Beloved chinelas

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

equity in the lives of young Pinays, the sequel takes a more lighthearted view, celebratory in tone rather than militant.

But the movie is strangely alienating. Maybe it's because of the lack of "worthy" male characters. The men in "Noon at Ngayon" always seem to come up short. The husband of one is gay, with the male lover forming a "sisterly" bond with the abandoned wife, while the son of another is about to step out of the closet. Another son has a low sperm count. While yet another son (what's with this *barkada* that their male offspring should all be flawed?) is decidedly "OC," falling for his mother's friend whose own motives for falling in love with the young man are clouded by her own obsession for his real father.

The movie SEEMS to be about how each generation echoes the same dilemmas and dreams that preceded it. But it comes up empty. What all it really is about is an "acting vehicle" for the ABS-CBN conglomerate's stable of actresses and young stars, the faces who headline its soaps, primetime dramas and teeny-bopper "kilig" shows.

CLOSE on the heels of the inter-generational drama is another film celebrating sisterhood but with a comic twist.

"Pinay Pie," written and directed by Joey Javier Reyes, tells the interlocking tales of three women—cousins Joyce Jimenez and Assunta de Rosi and their friend Ai-ai delas Alas—and their search for true love, sexual fulfillment, a beauty title and *ukay-ukay* riches.

Dining with Bongbong

DINING is not quite the correct term. Dining is something one does with damask, candlelight and crystal, and somehow *pacbet* and *bagnet* are not viands associated with Georg Janssen and Baccarat stemware even if prepared by Larry C at his Kapampangan restaurant. Given that the host was on a modified Adkin's regimen, the choice of menu was more for the guests than for him. I do not have the discipline to eat green mango and *bagoong*, *laing*, *inihaw na pla-pla* and Ilocano dishes without rice. One must admire anyone who can do so.

What was this all about and what were a bunch of women journalists doing on a Wednesday evening aside from enjoying the calories? Well, a few days earlier, I received a brown envelope, with a return address on Panay Avenue, from an organization called Marcos Loyalists. Of course, Panay Avenue is kinda long but I seriously doubt that the only person I think I know who lives there would be writing papers entitled, "Resolving the Marcos Issue." However, Bonjin Bolinao revealed the menu and I have never said no to carbohydrates and salt.

Perhaps there is something to be read in the fact that no men were invited. Would their questions have been different? Probably. Nelly and I were debating who made his jacket (Armani?), which Joanne described as "maganda ang bagsak." Turned out it was Cerutti—not the type of information of interest to Amando Doro, for instance.

I asked Bongbong what traits he thought he had inherited from his mom and dad. He can't dance but he does sing. He misses his father who never saw his grandchildren from Bongbong. He doesn't have a memento of his dad's, like a watch, since everything was confiscated when they arrived in Hawaii.

Jullie wanted to know what he believed was his dad's most important contribution. The governor (Joanne refers to him that way) said he gave the Filipinos an identity. I'd question this, of

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



course, but that's neither here nor there. I understand there are some of us who don't know who they are. Most of the women I know however don't have this problem but it has more to do with our own parents than Bongbong's. His father also gave Filipinos something to be proud about.

You are naturally free to disagree. But none of us contradicted him since this is a matter of opinion and he is after all the old man's son.

We discussed various things, including the fact that Ilocos Norte won the distinction of being No. 1 among the provinces (according to the United Nations, I think) as far as quality of life is concerned. The governor said in his province the air is clean, the sky clear and it is well known that Ilocanos have the longest life expectancy rate among us. And, yes, he did donate one of his kidneys to his dad in 1983, and, no, he didn't think twice about it.

He is concentrating on improving tourism in the province and hoping to develop other products that can be exported since even Lucio Tan is now buying tobacco from China. Yup, Chinese leaf tobacco is superior to ours and cheaper at that. If that isn't enough to make you weep.

So what about the Marcos issue? If we go by the electorate (85 percent belong to the C and D class) and the way they voted in the last two elections, it's a non-issue. But take a look at these figures: the Swiss assets (\$37.5 billion), the Amari deal (\$300 million), the sale of Fort Bonifacio (\$200 million); wasn't it supposed to

Payumo stressed that Subic does not chase low-end product manufacturing which cannot compete with China or Vietnam; instead it targets high-value, high-tech manufacturing where our competitiveness lies in such things as our skill in reading technical manuals in English, or instructions passed down the production line without being gurbled in translation. This is why, he says, call centers, backroom operations and jewelry and fashion accessory makers from Italy find Subic an ideal site. Weighing in too is the security in Subic, where there is no risk transporting materials from the airport to their plant.

Payumo admits that China is a threat which has already sucked in \$100 billion investments from Taiwan and 70 percent of foreign deposit investments (FDIs) in the Asia Pacific. But coping with China only means Subic has to continually improve its service to locators and in this regard, a most significant development was Subic's recent passing of the auditing procedures required for the issuance of the internationally acclaimed ISO 9001-2000 on Quality Management System. Accreditation by ISO, the world's largest developer of standards, came after key departments of SBMA passed the strict audit compliance procedures conducted by the TUV Product Service, the certification body implementing ISO standards. Another move to enhance competitiveness is President Macapagal's effort to push the Subic-Clark Alliance—an intermodal transportation park that enables locators in the two former US bases to move their products to the market ahead of competitors through the combined assets of Subic's new seaport, Clark International Airport and the 92-km tollroad between them.

Things are looking up for Subic, and contributing greatly is the eco-tourism industry with its educational and sports tours, theme parks such as Ocean Adventure and the popular restaurant-cum naval museum called "Magellan's Landing" owned by Brian Homan. The old US naval base has come a long way from the 30,000 peak employment at the height of the Vietnam War to the current 53,017 employment as of last June under Pinoy hands.

Reyes upends the conventions of commercial formula. Jimenez, known as the sexual fantasy of Filipino males, gets the role of the sober career girl, a magazine editor on the mend after a boyfriend's betrayal. She also gets comedian Whong Navarro for her leading man.

Assunta de Rosi, another actress who gained fame for her sexy roles, exploits her comic talents to the hilt as a perennial beauty contestant, lovable in her ambition and drive and charming naïveté.

But it is Ai Ai who provides not just laughs but also power. As the *ukay-ukay* hawker who allows nothing to stand in her way, she gets to kiss Carlos Agassi who plays her "SPO Papa" who turns out to be a Mama's boy, and ends up with the exquisite dilemma of having to choose between two scrumptious hunks.

"PINAY Pie" is broad in its comedy—the actors seem to feel compelled to yell out their lines. It is also, thankfully, spare in its moral lessons and "insights."

But for sheerchutzpah, and the absence of any sense of remorse or regret about the choices they make, the gutsy women of "Pinay Pie" say more about the empowerment of women than all the tears and hand-wringing and slow-motion fade outs of "Noon at Ngayon."

True, the lot of women remains fairly the same as it was decades ago. But maybe it's a sign of progress that we no longer beat our breasts about it no end. Instead, we dust ourselves off after each stumble and, in the best Assunta de Rosi pageant hopeful tradition, smile through our *faux pas* and glide our way through life.

Before you know it, sisters, men will cease to be the fulcrum of your existence. You will realize that there are more important and interesting matters to occupy your time and attention. And if you're lucky, you will learn the value of the faded, worn-out slipper, in contrast to the charms of the gleaming new pair of leather shoes that look good but decidedly cramp your style.

Quarter-life crisis

MAYBE John Mayer is right. This is just a quarter-life crisis. Three years after I graduated from college, my life is still less than a smashing success.

When I graduated, I was full of hopes, dreams and ambitions: power suits for lunch meetings, Friday night gimmicks, weekend yoga classes, Saturday volunteer work at animal shelters, the whole nine yards. At 23, my wardrobe closet doesn't have a single pinstriped suit, or any suit for that matter; Friday night gimmicks are limited to watching a movie, with everyone going Dutch; the yoga mat has yet to be rolled out; and my humanitarian endeavors are limited to shelling out a portion of my paycheck to an institution for street children. Meanwhile, my mad-cap friends seem to be living *la vida loca*.

One friend got promoted after almost two years of toiling in a call center and is now the team supervisor. She has survived the hassle of commuting from Antipolo, where she lives, to Makati every night. Because the night shift commands bigger pay, she chose to become a resident owl. Two years of listening to people carp about their broken computers, two years of drinking cup after cup of black coffee just to stay perky, two years of perfecting an accent that can fool Americans across the ocean, two years of disturbing sleep patterns, not to mention the inability to identify the correct date—all that is finally paying off. She got a promotion!

I asked her if being a team supervisor meant she would get her daily dose of vitamin D back and she said no. Well, I guess that comes with the package when you labor in customer service. But now I have a supervisor for a friend. Imagine that. I do have one complaint, though: because of her complex schedule, I still haven't gotten my free dinner from her.

Then, there's Em, who is now living on her own. Okay, so she's living with her younger sister, but she used to live with relatives. When she landed a high-paying job, she moved out and found a small apartment.

Although I'm still very much attached to my parents' house and do not want to follow Em's big, adult move, I admire her. She lost her father when we were in our teens, studied on a scholarship grant and worked her way up. Look at her now. She has a job, her own apartment, and, yes, she has treated me to a free dinner.

It's not just the free meals. Most of my friends are changing their mobile phones, chucking their old phones for the latest model. For three weeks now, I have been receiving the same message: "Hi. This is (name). My new number is..."

Me? Well, I still lug around my trusty Nokia 3210. During one dinner date with friends, as we were finishing our dessert, everyone started rummaging through her purse and began texting. Needless to say, I was the only one with a phone from the Mesozoic era.

It's not that I am complaining. After listening to them whine about their bosses, gripe about not getting enough sleep, fret over their credit card and phone bills, it hit me: I don't have to make coffee for anyone or memorize the buttons on the fax and photocopy machine. I don't have to speak with a twang. My check comes in exchange for the words I write.

I work as a writer for a financial servicing firm. I don't make a lot of money, but I never have to burden myself with the things I mentioned. When I go to work, it's just me and my computer—no coffee to make, no documents to photocopy, no angry customers to pacify.

And for an Internet addict like myself, this job rocks! I can work, check my e-mail, read the latest gossip on E! Online, and chat with my friends all at the same time. Talk about multi-tasking.

OK, so it's not the greatest job in the world or even a glamorous one. It has its disadvantages like less interpersonal communication (since I can talk to my superior through instant messenger), a higher risk of eyestrain and acquiring carpal tunnel syndrome, among others. But every job has its pros and cons. And for me, the positives in my work outweigh the negatives.

A friend once asked me if I ever got tired of doing the same thing every day, which is mainly surfing the web for the latest business news. I said yes, but who doesn't, anyway? I am still having my quarter-life crisis, after all.

Crismel Yparraguirre, 23, works as a writer for an IT company.

IN THE NEWS



Osama bin Laden

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Unjust Napocor-Meralco terms

THIS is a rejoinder to the very informative letter of Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (PDI 9/2/03) telling of Meralco's desperate machinations to settle the P20-billion penalty it incurred for violating its contract with Napocor for the supply of electricity. On the surface, there seems to be nothing wrong. Napocor simply wants to recover its losses caused by a contract violator that is Meralco.

But for Napocor to be a willing party to a settlement agreement that intends to pass this P20-billion Meralco penalty to the consumers is abusive, absurd and preposterous.

Right now the oppressive cost

of electricity that Meralco charges its customers remain a consumer complaint that this government fails to address. We don't want to believe it but the ominous signs are growing: consumers are made to pay for electricity that they do not use or consume (PPA); a utility like Meralco was given a mega-franchise by Congress and approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo. This, despite the fact that distribution systems of utilities require heavy capitalization for its maintenance, upgrading and operations and that Meralco is in dire financial trouble as a result of the recent Supreme Court refund order of more than P30 billion. Simply shocking!

And now we have this P20-bil-

lion Meralco penalty under the Napocor-Meralco settlement agreement that will be passed on to the consumers. This is horrible! Have the eight Cabinet secretaries in the Napocor Board and the government representatives in the Meralco Board lost their sense of morality? We hope not. Otherwise, what will be left of the trust that the people have in this government?

We, therefore, urge the Napocor Board and the government representatives in the Meralco Board to reject this Napocor-Meralco settlement agreement because it is anti-consumer.

—ANGELO B. AGUILA, president, UP Saver (Student Association of Valuers of Energy Resources), Quezon City



In fairness to bar flunkers

THIS refers to the well-written column on "The reluctant hinges on the bar" by Isagani Cruz (PDI, 9/7/03).

In Australia and other Commonwealth countries, there are no bar or board examinations. The final tests determine whether you can become a lawyer or a doctor.

But, if you fail in the tests, you can file a petition for re-correction after paying a certain amount. The re-correction is done by another examiner. And if you still fail, the examiner can explain why you failed. This should be done by our Supreme Court in the interest of justice, fairness and transparency. What surprises me is that, after

living and working as a journalist and author in Australia since early 1973, I have not come across a lawyer or judge who has been found to be ignorant of the law.

In America, the bar examinations consist of a multiple choice which is corrected by computer machines and essay writing which is corrected by the examiner. But examiners have to undergo competence tests before their official appointments are issued.

As a reporter of the pre-martial law Manila Times, I unearthed bar exam scandals. Unfortunately, I didn't get to write my report because the Manila Times was closed down.

It cannot be denied that some bar examiners didn't personally correct some bar exam notebooks assigned to them. And this is totally unfair to bar flunkers.

As a court reporter, I was close to the late Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion. Usually, he called me on Wednesdays to brief him on current affairs. And he allowed me to read the examination notebooks of topnotchers and flunkers. The truth is that I found that some flunkers have better answers than the topnotchers.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, 2 Goodenia Court, Voyager Point NSW, Australia 2171

Not definitive and accurate

THIS is in reply to an article that appeared in your paper last Aug. 25, 2003 regarding computer analysis of a person's handwriting. For the record, the use of computer technology in handwriting analysis has not been proven to be definitive and accu-

rate. It is for this reason that crime laboratories in the United States, including the FBI's, are not using technological analysis to examine the authenticity of handwritings.

Currently, there is no substitute for the use of the expertise of a

qualified trained document examiner in the process of analyzing disputed signatures.

—MANUEL MONTILLA, retired LAPD examiner of questioned documents, Los Angeles, California, USA, montipro@earthlink.net

How about the dignity women deserve?

I WAS dismayed and disappointed with the article of Gerrard C. Fabie entitled, "One bold, happy scuffle" (PDI, 8/30/03), which talked about the upcoming "Showgirls" show at the Folk Arts Theater. The writer used marketing and economics to approach the "bold phenomenon," using such concepts such as improving the quality of bold stars, business savvy, male market, men as buyers versus women as sellers (of their bodies), the marketing war heating up and the like. By doing so, he openly espouses and advocates the exploitation of women as sex objects to satisfy the "newly roused collective libido" of men.

What the writer seems to have forgotten is that he is talking about women who have an innate dignity, even if their actions speak otherwise. Women are not objects for men to ogle, not goods to be compared, not sellers of their bodies as their "wares." As Pope John Paul II wrote in his book "Love and Responsibility," nobody can use a

person as a means toward an end. Anyone who does (in this case for illicit sexual pleasure) does violence to the very essence of the person. To paraphrase the Golden Rule, "Do not do unto women what you would not want other men to do unto your wives and daughters."

The women themselves, those who appear in "Showgirls," the Sex Bomb dancers and the Viva Hot Babes, should seriously re-evaluate their actions. Their attire and manner of dancing/performing make the statement that they and all women should be treated as sex objects, for the satisfaction of men's base desires. They are worth more, much more than that!

We hope for and eagerly await the day when women don't feel the need to dress and dance provocatively to gain the attention they want, and when all women will finally be treated with the dignity they deserve.

—CAROL ANNE TANSINGCO, fatcat@info.com.ph

Voices for Suu Kyi

WE are deeply concerned for the health and safety of pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been in detention for more than three months now.

As religious education students from various countries in Asia and Africa, we are profoundly inspired by the courage and commitment of this dedicated and fearless woman, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. We join our voices with those of the United Nations and other human rights groups in urging the mili-

tary government of Myanmar to immediately release Suu Kyi from this unjust detention.

—ROMEO A. TUSI, RLM, BRO. RANDY E. SUELLO, Sch.R, SR. DAISY SUPERABLE, RGS, SR. MARY FE C. MONTEGRANDE, SSS, SR. ROSINA MELGAR TENERIFE, ADC, SR. ERLIE DELOS REYES, SFIC, SR. ANTONIA SANTIAGO, OSB, Institute of Formation and Religious Studies, 28 Acacia St., 1112 Cubao, Quezon City



No 'colorum' bus monopoly

THIS has reference to the news article "Bus firm wants ruling vs rival firm enforced" (PDI, 8/21/03) where De Guia Enterprises, operator of G-Liner, raised points that tended to misinform the public and malign the good name of our company.

First, all RRCG Transport buses plying the Cainta-Queipo and Taytay-Queipo via Ortigas routes are covered by a legitimate franchise under a certificate of public convenience. Thus, RRCG does not operate colorum buses or buses with no lines.

Likewise, RRCG has successfully complied with the stringent requirements of the Rationalization Program of the Department of Transportation and Communications and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

Second, there is no ruling to be enforced since the case had been rendered moot and academic by subsequent turn of events including the implementation of the Bus Rationalization Program and the compromise agreement of the involved parties.

To ensure the smooth flow of the program, the LTFRB called RRCG and De Guia Enterprises to an executive session where both parties agreed to withdraw all oppositions and petitions filed under the said program and to stop all previous complaints.

We continue to adhere to the principle of fair competition. However, we lament the deliberate effort of the other group to perpetuate its long-gone monopoly in the Cainta and Taytay-Queipo routes by resorting to unfair business practices.

In fact, last July 14, we wrote Ayete Groves, owner of G-Liner and reported to the LTFRB our observation that G-Liner has been continuously operating out of line units along its Taytay-Queipo route.

Today, with the breakup of the G-Liner monopoly, the riding public along the Cainta and Taytay-Queipo routes is given a cheaper and more comfortable choice.

—ROBERTO TORRES, president, RRCG Transport System Inc., Kilometer 23, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Cainta, Rizal 1900

Enlist COA in fight against gov't irregularities

IT'S like I was floored by IBF champ Manny Pacquiao when I read Ramon Tulfo's inappropriate portrayal of auditors from the Commission on Audit as parties in the commission of irregularities in government. (PDI, 8/5/03)

As a retired COA auditor who spent the best years of my life braving hardship assignments in far-flung Palawan in NPA-infested Quezon province, and in traffic-plagued Metro Manila, I feel it is my duty to rebut such baseless accusations against COA auditors.

In his usual penchant for sensationalism, Tulfo exaggerated to earn "pogi" points at the expense of the COA and its auditors. How on earth and in heaven's name did Tulfo come to such conclusion? Had he researched his piece, he would have discovered that under the COA's present post-audit system which replaced the pre-audit in 1995, it is impossible for COA auditors to connive with government officials in the commission of graft and corruption. Under the system, disbursement vouchers

for the procurement of goods and services are first paid or consummated by the concerned agencies before the same are submitted to the resident COA auditor for post-audit. In this setup, there's absolutely no room for connivance on the part of the auditor.

No auditor worth his calling would stoop so low to connive with grafters in government since it's tantamount to selling his soul for the proverbial 30 pieces of silver which doomed Judas Iscariot.

I salute Tulfo for his guts in exposing venalities and malfeasance in the bureaucracy without fear or favor. But he is zeroing in on the wrong target by picking on government auditors who are dubbed as the present-day "guardian angels" of the people's money. He should instead enlist their support in unmasking any perceived misuse of government funds and property.

—SONNY E. CACERES, ex-editor, Ariva Newsletter, COA Regional Office 4, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

In support of lifestyle check

THE CONCERNED Women of the Philippines wish to express strong support to the present government policy of conducting lifestyle checks on our government officials and employees who, in manifest contrast to their salary levels, have shown inordinate capacities to acquire and own million-peso houses and luxury cars.

The threats of employees in our revenue-collection offices such as in the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to resign en masse in protest to this legitimate government move, indicate a tendency of the members of the bureaucracy to close ranks and protect their selfish interests and corrupt practices.

The progress of a nation depends on the political determination to enforce judicious laws that curb natural propensities to prey on others for the purpose of self-enrichment and self-gratifications thus, negating the primary function of public service imbued with public trust.

The experience of ordinary citizens with entrenched bureaucracy has been continuously one of fla-

grant circumvention of laws, by which "grease" money allows instant service and immediate release of papers and permits.

Enough is enough. Developing countries require proper values and a developed sense of service which would generate revenues where needed (and not for one's pocket) and provide facilities where inadequate. A lifestyle check is one effective way to curtail the rampant graft and corruption that have undermined our functioning society, caused heavy losses running to hundreds of millions and adversely affected our economy and our modernization goals.

President Macapagal-Arroyo should maintain and strengthen all current institutionalized moves to curb rampant graft and to effectively mobilize public support to improve our bureaucratic, labyrinthine procedures and dampen entrenched corrupt tendencies.

—EVELYN L. KILAYKO, Concerned Women of the Philippines, konsyenspil@yahoo.com

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Nuke the Senate

COMMENTARY

Ernesto M. Hilario

IT wasn't too long ago that former Sen. Francisco Tatad declared that "the Senate is dead," and not a few people fully concurred with his prescient observation because he had come from the belly of the beast, and knew whereof he spoke.

But I didn't realize the full implications of what he said until I watched the recent hearing where First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his disgruntled ex-messenger were grilled by the senators. I caught that portion where ex-First Lady and now Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito was grilling Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, who had recanted his earlier affidavit accusing Arroyo of wrongdoing, and the exchange went something like this:

Senator Ejercito: "Udong, talaga bang sinungaling ka?"

Udong Mahusay: "Hindi po."

Senator Ejercito: "May mga sinabi ka sa unang affidavit na binawi mo sa pangalawang affidavit mo. Sanay ka talagang magsinungaling, ano?"

Udong Mahusay: "Sinabi ko lang po ang katotohanan."

Senator Ejercito: "Hindi mo ba alam na puwede kang makulong sa pagsisinungaling mo dito sa loob ng Senado?"

Take note that this particular Senate hearing was an investigation "in aid of legislation." If it were so, then perhaps Ejercito should have filed a bill by now prohibiting all liars, congenital and otherwise, from even setting foot in the Senate. The problem with that, as we all know, is that nobody would be left in that far-from-august chamber.

The way the *senadora* castigated a lowly *mensahero* in the full glare of TV cameras, she must have thought she could earn previous brownie points for her rather unremarkable political career. We're not even talking of statesmanship being in awfully short supply in the Senate. All we ask is that our senators at least show sobriety and common decency when they face the public.

But let us set aside Ejercito's—and her col-

league in the opposition, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's—rather crude and brazen attempt to bamboozle a witness, and focus on what brought about this hearing in the first place: Sen. Panfilo Lacson's exposé on Mike Arroyo's alleged wrongdoing.

Even seasoned lawyers are saying that Lacson's allegations have no legal leg to stand on, because all the evidence he has presented so far seems to be as solid as Swiss cheese. And yet we are told that there's going to be another installment—or is it two or three more?—of Lacson's perorations on the Senate floor.

The senators' penchant for investigating every perceived anomaly in and out of government, which gives them a convenient soapbox with which to grandstand and catch the ear of the unwary and the gullible, is what has tainted, perhaps irremediably, the image of this lawmaking institution.

Many have lamented the descent of the Upper Chamber into the abyss of mediocrity that it is today. In the 1960s, the Senate reverberated with the stirring words of statesmen and patriots of the likes of Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, and Jose W. Diokno. Alas, those days are no more, and if former Sen. Francisco Tatad ruefully decries the death of the Senate, it is not because he sees today's senators as the walking dead, it's just that they're brain-dead.

The Senate is one of the ramparts of our democracy. It is a forum for informed and intelligent debate where men and women of supposedly better intelligence than the rest of Filipinos can discuss issues and craft laws that will lead the nation to peace and

progress and a better future.

But what do we get?

We get senators who do not see—or refuse to see—any conflict of interest in their jobs as public servants and continuing their careers in media and entertainment. Several of them have their faces plastered on giant billboards, selling detergent, or rubbing alcohol, or cheap intoxicant. Now we know why the deceased respected senators of old must be turning in their graves.

We get former show-biz personalities with no training in, nor aptitude for, the legislative process, and have little to show by way of actual legislation sponsored. We get lawyers who use their intimate knowledge of the letter and spirit of the law to get back at their political adversaries, or to obfuscate the issues, rather than to lead this nation to greatness.

And we get ex-military men with dark pasts and bloody hands who want to occupy the highest political office at all costs, even through extra-constitutional means.

Sen. John Osmeña recently proposed that to defuse the highly charged political atmosphere, everyone—all politicians, presumably, whether in the Senate or out of it—should simply shut up. Good idea. But it would be infinitely better if he does not exclude himself from his own prescription for the nation to enjoy a well-deserved respite from partisan politics.

The Senate is the training ground of future presidents. That's not the good news, that's the bad news. And if the Senate has fallen into such disrepute that few Filipinos harbor any illusion that wisdom is at all possible from the Senate floor, it's because every time our senators open their mouths, they are likely to subtract from the sum of human knowledge, not add to it. Let's close down this house of ill-repute, or nuke it out of existence, for the sake of our nation.

Ernesto M. Hilario is a freelance writer.

PNP cops...

From page A1

Chiefs of National Police (Aseanapol) invitational golf tournament, the PNP has the best golfers among police organizations in Southeast Asia.

It topped the team category of Thursday's tournament, with a gross score of 318, besting delegates from nine other Aseanapol member-states in the conference sideshow.

Police officials of Laos and Malaysia were a close second and third, with gross scores of 337 and 342.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., however, failed to secure a place in the chiefs of police category, which was ruled by Gen. Tawatchai Pailae, head of the Royal Thai Police.

The tournament was supposed to be a side event of the 23rd Aseanapol forum hosted by the PNP at the Manila Hotel.

But it may well have been the delegates' biggest preoccupation during the three-day event.

Within hours after the conference opened last Tuesday, delegates rushed to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City for a practice session.

On tournament day, delegates played from 12 noon to 4 p.m., a Wack Wack employee told the INQUIRER.

Officials had earlier dismissed suggestions that the golf tournament was distracting the conference from its real purpose, which was to firm up regional security in the face of terrorist threats and drug trafficking. They said it has been a "tradition" during Aseanapol meets.

As if to forestall any criticism, the chiefs of police on Thursday commended Ebdane for the way he handled the annual meet.

Ebdane is the chair emeritus of the organization.

While the cops scored in the fairways, a party-list representative called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately tap the services of former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to curb criminality in the country.

In a letter to the President, Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption, said Giuliani, who reduced the crime rate in New York City could be the answer to the problem of rising criminality. With a report from Cynthia Balana

Serge O sure Jose Pidal is Mike A

By Christine O. Avendano

BASED on handwriting samples that he collected and took it upon himself to examine, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III yesterday claimed that the President's brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo Jr., was not, in fact, Jose Pidal.

Osmeña made the assertion after showing reporters handwriting samples of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Ignacio Arroyo signing as Jose Pidal and Jose Pidal's signature in a May 4, 1998 Bank of the Philippine Islands check.

The signature of the First Gentleman was taken from a June 14, 1994 grant deed he signed for a California property he and President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly bought.

On the other hand, Ignacio Arroyo's signature as Jose Pidal was taken from the Special Power of Attorney he executed for the Senate this month.

Osmeña said the samples showed that the First Gentleman's signature of his name Jose resembled Jose Pidal's signature rather than that of Ignacio's, signing as Jose Pidal.

"I will let the people of the Philippines judge for themselves," he said after the presentation. "You don't need a handwriting expert to see the similarities between Jose Miguel Arroyo's Jose and the Jose of Jose Pidal and the dissimilarities between Iggy's Jose and the Jose of Jose Pidal and even in the Pidal family name."

"The conclusion seems to be clear that Iggy Arroyo is not Jose Pidal... And that the two brothers are hiding some things that they do not want the Filipino people to know," the senator told reporters.

Osmeña, the chair of the third Senate committee investigating the Jose Pidal exposé, also claimed that Malacañang was putting pressure on the Senate to have the inquiry terminated.

He said he got calls from two Malacañang officials and three people close to the Palace seeking to terminate the Senate hearings "and to just submit (the matter) to the courts."

"There is a full-court press on," Osmeña said at a news conference.

"We got the same pressure when we were trying (President Joseph) Estrada also," Osmeña also admitted at one point, apparently referring to Estrada's impeachment trial.

When asked if he knew whether these officials also called other senators, Osmeña told reporters he would rather not say and to just ask the other senators instead.



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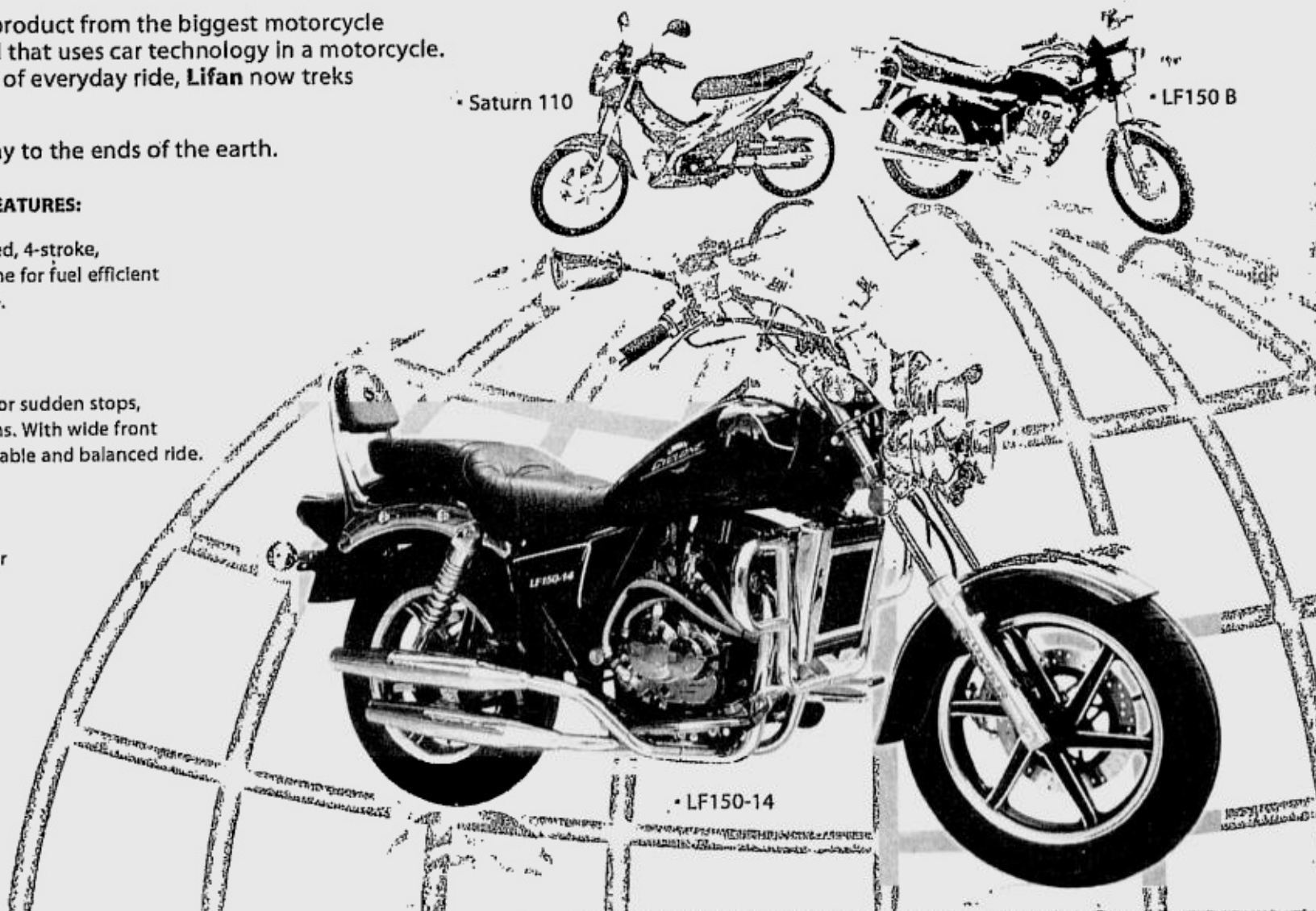
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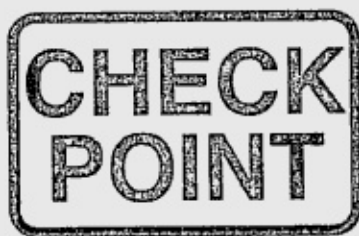


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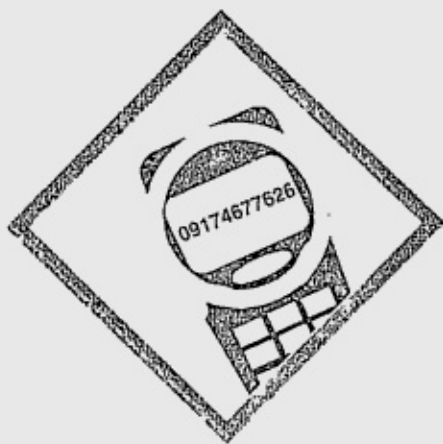
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

That magic moment for Mike A

By Alcuin Papa

FOR a change, controversy-embroiled First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo found himself on the other side of the camera. Literally.

Arroyo dropped in on a press conference conducted by his lawyer Jesus I. Castro yesterday, at the LTA Building on Perea Street in Makati City. Refusing to answer questions from reporters, Arroyo, an avid photography buff, instead bantered with press photographers.

Arroyo asked to look at the camera of a photographer from the Manila Standard, a Pentax digital camera, and playfully pointed it at the other members of media present.

Goaded by female TV news reporters to take their pictures, Arroyo acquiesced. Later, he trained the lens on the bashful owner of the camera himself, much to the amusement of those present.

He chatted amiably with everyone, while steering clear of questions about the Jose Pidal controversy.

His favorite subject? His wife President Macapagal-Arroyo, of course, and also his granddaughter Mikaela Gloria or "Mika."

"Photographers wait for that magic moment. In the case of Gloria, if you are patient while taking her picture, *maganda smile niya*



FAVORITE subjects of this photographer is his wife, of course and granddaughter Mika. JESS YUSON

(she has a beautiful smile). It's very charming," Arroyo gushed.

Arroyo said he considers himself the official photographer of his wife. Once, during the 1998 campaign, Arroyo said, his wife, running for vice president, came

home very tired.

"She plopped down on a sofa and smiled and I told her 'Hold that pose!' and took a picture," he recalled. The picture ended up on a campaign poster.

Lately, he said, he has been taking a lot of pictures of Mika, the firstborn child of Mikey and Angela Arroyo who is almost a year old. The proud grandfather said he was keeping and preserving his pictures of Mika in an album.

Arroyo revealed that he took up the hobby when he was around 7 years old. At that time, his father gave him a Roliflex camera favored by studio and fashion photographers.

Arroyo said that he later taught himself darkroom techniques. "I burned my hands numerous times."

Now, he said, he owns seven cameras and three digital cameras. "I prefer using film, specifically black and white. Digital cameras take clearer pictures. But it's not the same."

Aside from his wife and Mika, Arroyo said he was partial to landscape and scenery subjects and said he takes his cameras whenever he travels.

Arroyo the photographer said he had no plans to stage an exhibit of his work. When asked if the pictures might be worth something one day, Arroyo just shrugged his shoulders.

Autumn in Paris good for First Couple

From page A1

are conducive to a second honeymoon. While GMA gets to court investors, she gets to be courted again by Mike," said the opposition congressman.

And since the opposition will be expected to observe the time-honored tradition of holding off criticizing the President "when he or she is carrying the republic's colors abroad," then the trip would also "effect a much-needed truce in political combat," Mitra said.

"They should not worry about slingshots from Manila for none shall be fired," said Mitra, and thus "affairs of state can be conducted together with affairs of the heart."

But not everyone is susceptible to Mitra's romantic notions of a second honeymoon for the First Couple.

No love story

His opposition colleague Rep. Carlos Padilla is not about to silence his guns and has accused Malacañang of "selling the script of a Gloria-Mike telenovela to ease mounting public outrage over massive corruption in the administration."

Padilla said the plan to have Mike Arroyo tag along to Europe and the United States was a "diversionary tactic."

"The public wants the truth behind all the major stories on corruption right in the center of power. They do not want love stories," he said.

Mike Arroyo has denied accusations by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson that he stashed at least P260 million in campaign funds into bank accounts under the false name Jose Pidal and that he had an affair with his accountant.

But speculations are rife that the scandal

has strained the 35-year union of the Arroyos who have not been seen together in public for two weeks.

The President's ruling party mates and supporters worry that Mike Arroyo's woes could weigh on Ms Macapagal's improved ratings and an expected run in next May's presidential elections.

Lakas Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo has even suggested that the President jettison her husband who may have become a political liability. He was roundly criticized by other party members for intruding into the private life of the President.

The scandal took a tear-jerking twist the other day when Mike Arroyo, apparently responding to Gunigundo's suggestion, went before the media to tearfully declare his love for his wife.

He denied reports that they were living apart and said he was "on speaking terms" with his wife.

This was followed by a statement from the Palace that Mike Arroyo would be joining the President on the European and US trips.

First Couple of Gridiron

Yesterday, in another encouraging sign, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the First Gentleman would be joining the President today at the National Press Club's annual Gridiron night where allegations that he had laundered millions and was having an affair with his accountant Victoria Toh would most likely figure in the satirical skits.

This will be the first time that the First Couple will be publicly seen together since the scandal broke. The Arroyos were last seen on Aug. 28 during the birthday party of chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

Bunye said that Mike Arroyo continued to

live at the Palace with the President contrary to rumors that he had moved out.

Analysts worry

Behind the tears and flowery headlines, however, analysts worry that the scandal is further muddying the political scene less than two months after a July 27 failed coup.

Arsenio Balisacan, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, told Reuters the mud-slinging was deterring fresh investment before the elections.

"The Philippine economy could grow by 5, 6 or 7 percent if this perception of uncertainty, especially the intentions of the President [about seeking a full term in 2004], were not in the air," he said.

"The candidates that are there are not very inspiring," said Balisacan.

The economy grew at a rate of 3.2 percent in the second quarter year-on-year, not good enough in a country whose high birth rate could double the population within 30 years.

Approved foreign direct investments in the Philippines plunged 63 percent on the year in the first half.

The central bank says foreign portfolio investments fell around 54 percent in August from the previous month, hit partly by fears sparked by the July attempted coup.

Even ordinary Filipinos, a third of whom live on about \$2 a day, are beginning to tire of the saga.

"Who the hell cares who Jose Pidal is?" asked a young professional in the Makati central business district.

"It doesn't put bread on my table." With a report from Reuters

GMA seeks divine help against foes

From page A1

tious [politicians]" and prayed for strength to weather the crises.

"Lord, by Your protection, we shall not give them an inch of the people's sovereignty that they intend to usurp by force. Lord, by Your grace, I have no time for pleasing despots," she said.

Aunor sang "Heal our Land," prompting the crowd of students, government workers, members of nongovernment organizations, farmers, and others from Metro Manila's 17 cities and municipalities, and the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas and Laguna to clap and chant "Ate Guy!"

Before the rally began, the crowd was entertained by the rap group Salbakuta and singer Kuh Ledesma, who sang the Marcos-era "Ako ay Pilipino."

Ms Macapagal, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Speaker Jose de Venecia, religious leaders, and Metro Manila mayors took turns in delivering prayers for the nation.

The President said prayers were sustaining her in these trying times.

"Lord, as President, I am prepared to do everything to bring stability and prosperity to our republic. Sometimes, I also feel tired and have doubts but You make me strong and focused on what is good for our country," she said, adding:

"While I do my best, I lean on You through prayers."

She also said this was the time for Filipinos to pray for unity and to uphold the national interest above partisan issues.

Guingona exhorted the crowd to "pray from our hearts with sincerity of mind and body."

"We pray for democracy for all Filipinos rich and poor," he said.

De Venecia said he was praying "for politicians to put an end to destructive politics."

He called on the people of Metro Manila to

show unity against destabilization and said: "Our loyalty is to the duly constituted authorities of the republic."

JV, Binay no-shows

The National Prayer Rally for Peace, Unity and Democracy was spearheaded by the Metro Manila Mayors League (MML).

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza hosted the event, alongside Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, wife of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando.

Of the 17 Metro Manila mayors, 14 were present, and one sent a representative.

The notable no-shows were Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Pasig Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo came in place of Mayor Soledad Eusebio.

Those present were Mayors Atienza of Manila, Marides Fernando of Marikina, Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City, Rey Malonzo of Caloocan, Toby Tiangco of Navotas, Amado Vicencio of Malabon, Bobbit Carlos of Valenzuela, Rosendo Capco of Pateros, Vergel Aguilar of Las Piñas, Jaime Fresneda of Muntinlupa, Joey Marquez of Paranaque, Sigfrido Tinga of Taguig and Peewee Trinidad of Pasay.

Present as well were Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and the President's son, Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, and the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

No political color but ...

And while the event was touted to be free of political color, the crowd filled the green grounds fronting the Quirino Grandstand with colors of red and yellow brought by the Manila and Quezon City delegations; white from the students' school uniforms; and blotches of green and blue from streamers and waving flags.

In a manifesto, read by Pasay Mayor Trinidad, MML spokesperson, the mayors cited terrorist threats, the July 27 mudny, in-

surgencies, political destabilization and partisan political interests as among the problems wreaking havoc on the economy and threatening democracy.

"Let us show the whole world that we as Filipinos could overcome these challenges by uniting and working together for the national interest and supporting our national leaders, especially President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," they said.

The mayors also expressed apprehension that with divisiveness plaguing the country, progress and stability would be harder to achieve. Thus, they said, the people should make a stand "in defense of peace, unity and democracy."

Religious delegation

"We, the leaders of Metro Manila's cities and municipalities belonging to different political parties and having different political persuasions, firmly believe that what we need right now is to set aside our partisan political agenda and interests and unite for the good of our country and our people," they said.

Representatives of the Philippine Independent Church, Jesus is Lord Movement and Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and Buddhist and Muslim leaders said prayers separately.

Around 5,000 Kapampangans, mobilized by the Coalition for the Advancement of the Promises of Edsa and the Pampanga Mayors League, joined the prayer rally.

On board some 100 buses and cars, they left the Paskuhan Village in San Fernando at past 11 a.m.

The organizers apparently managed to mobilize only half of the 10,000 target set during their meeting on Wednesday because of limited resources and time. Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Tarra Quismundo, Lella B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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16 hours of protests for 8-hour Bush visit

From page A1

"I have already talked to him [Guingona] about the visit of President Bush, and he agreed that we should hold an activity like a prayer vigil for peace," Dizon added.

Guingona has been a consistent critic of the Bush administration's "preemptive strike" policy against perceived terrorist organizations around the world or against states suspected by the US gov-

ernment of harboring terrorists.

The Office of the Vice President confirmed that there had been some "consultation" between Guingona and Dizon's group, and said these touched only on "peace and unity activities."

"The Vice President indicated his support for expressions of such nature, but not in the context of [his participation in] protest activities," said an aide of Guingona's.

Sanlakas' Fortaleza said the planned

mass actions in October would be part of a series of protests that would start today.

Two rallies will be held today, one each in the morning and afternoon, as part of the worldwide protests against the World Trade Organization holding its meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

The morning rally, sponsored by the Stop the New Round Coalition, will be held in Mendiola, and the afternoon rally, sponsored by the advocates of the Global Day of Action Against War and Globaliza-

tion, in front of the US Embassy.

The Global Day advocates said Thursday that protest caravans would take off from various points of Luzon and converge in Manila today, the international day of action for stopping a new round of WTO negotiations.

They are also calling for an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq and Palestine.

According to the Global Day advocates, trade liberalization benefits only rich countries and big business because it aims

to dismantle all obstacles to the free flow of capital and goods on a global scale.

"Under [the Macapagal-Arroyo] administration, cheap imported consumer goods have flooded the market, much to the detriment of the local producers and small retailers who do not have the same safety nets that the more industrialized countries provide for their industries," they said in a statement. *Reports from Martin R. Marfil, Volt Contreras and Gerald G. Laciarta*

Elaborate security plan for world's most powerful man

From page A1

he's a powerful world leader who [is leading] the global fight against terrorism," Garcia yesterday said.

He said "initial preparations" were ongoing and would be finalized after discussions between local authorities and the US Secret Service, which would provide close-in security for Bush. He said the Presidential Security Group would be in charge of "complementary security."

In Pampanga, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said the security plan included securing the environs of the 4,400-hectare Clark Special Economic Zone from threats by communist rebels.

He said policemen would also be deployed to secure the gates of Clark from activists expected to mount protest rallies.

Military officials said they were monitoring the movements of communist rebels in Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, to avert any planned advance toward Clark.

Neighboring provinces are being secured by the Army's Northern Luzon Command.

The Philippine National Police is intensifying its intelligence gathering to prevent "embarrassment" during the Bush visit, said its spokesperson, Director Ricardo de Leon.

"We do not want any threat to the personal safety of dignitaries and heads of state. Their security must, at all times, be looked into to avoid any embarrassment," he told reporters.

De Leon said that there was no threat to the security of the US president, but that all police units nationwide would be put on full alert anyway.

Al-Ghozi

Bush's visit is expected to again test the Philippines' security measures in the face of terrorist threats.

The Macapagal administration was sorely embarrassed when, a few hours before Australian Prime Minister John Howard arrived here for a visit on July 14, Indonesian bomber Pathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from his detention cell in Camp Crame.

Garcia said it was the military's "wish and hope" that the fugitive Indonesian would be recaptured before Bush arrives. "But we'll go by breaks," he added.

Despite a positive forecast by military officials, the week ended with no development in the hunt in Mindanao for the confessed Jemaah Islamiyah member.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Army chief, said last week that there would be a breakthrough because military agents had "solid leads" on Al-Ghozi's whereabouts.

The fugitive, who was sentenced to 12 years for illegal possession of explosives and firearms, confessed to masterminding the bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

Symbolic, substantive

One of the other two escapees, Abdulmukim Ong Edris, was killed in an alleged shootout with his military captors in Lanao del Norte on Aug. 7. The other,

Omar Opik Lasal, remains at large.

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Philippines would make the most out of Bush's brief visit to strengthen and deepen its security and economic ties with the United States.

"The time may be short but the expected gains are undiminished. This event will be both highly symbolic and substantive," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said Bush's visit would symbolize the "conjoined strategic objectives of the Philippines and the US for global peace, security and development, and continuing US engagement in Southeast Asia."

Development funds

She said it would further cement the RP-US pact against terrorism and poverty, with the United States taking on a broader, post-conflict and rehabilitative role in Mindanao, and "substantiate" the economic partnership between the Philippines and its leading trade partner and investment source.

The United States has promised more developmental funds for Mindanao on top of the \$50 million it committed to the country if a final peace agreement is forged with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

According to Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Bush's visit, no matter how short, is important because it sends a strong message that RP-US relations are strong.

Bunye also pointed out that Bush was returning a favor to Ms Macapagal, who was one of only three heads of state invited for a state visit to Washington.

Public disclosure

For all that, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo urged Malacañang to disclose all the agreements set to be signed between Ms Macapagal and the US president.

Ocampo made the call a day after his party-list group asked the Supreme Court to nullify an RP-US agreement signed May 13 that gave American citizens here immunity from prosecution before the International Criminal Court.

"We don't want another agreement that was not opened to public discussion or consultation with Congress," he said, citing the immunity accord as an example.

Ocampo said he was particularly concerned that the agreements to be signed would lead to the "massive infusion" here of US men and materiel, with the aim of crushing groups tagged as terrorists by the Bush administration.

In August last year, the US government included the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army in its list of "Foreign Terrorist Organizations."

Ocampo warned that any agreement asserting the terrorist tag on the CPP-NPA would continue to pose "major stumbling blocks" to the resumption of peace talks between the government and the Left.

He also said he expected the government to intensify its crackdown on public protest

actions in the next few weeks, if only to ensure that Washington would "not reconsider" Bush's trip for security reasons.

He noted that police had of late been quick to enforce the "no-permit-no-rally" rule, something that, he said, they implemented with relative leniency in the past.

Even rallies over issues remotely connected to national politics or any "destabilization" plot have been violently dispersed by police for lack of permit, Ocampo observed.

He was referring to the rally held Wednesday at the Senate by academicians and students objecting to a Senate bill that would allow the University of the Philippines to commercialize its assets, and another protest rally that day against the World Trade Organization.

'Historic'

Emmanuel Angeles, president of the state-owned Clark Development Corp., said it was "more than happy" to welcome the US president. He said the DMIA, built from a 2,500-hectare aviation complex of the US Air Force, was one of Clark's "jewels."

Angeles also said Bush's arrival in Clark, a former US military base turned major investment hub, would be both "historic" and "significant" in the light of the continuing RP-US alliance and Ms Macapagal's "international credibility and acceptance." *Reports from TJ Burgenio, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Volt Contreras and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Joker on Jose Pidal probe: We started it, we finish it

From page A1

Drilon, who heads the administration coalition in the Senate, accused the camp of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson of twisting the facts, and thus muddling the issue.

He denied imposing a moratorium on privilege speeches.

"If you look at the transcript it says 'I would suggest that no more privilege speech so that there will be no more investigations,'" He said it was a reaction to a reporter's question on how to stop Senate investigations, which have taken priority over the chamber's legislative agenda.

Can't stop speeches

"We can't stop privilege speeches. As long as there are privilege speeches, you have to make investigations as a necessary step after the speech is made."

He said such privilege was within the ambit of the powers of lawmakers, and that not even the Senate President "can prevent its exercise."

"We can't stop it. You can't have a rule against privilege speech. It's only a moratorium, an appeal. I hope that the context can be stated properly."

He said his appeal was a "rhetorical remark and was made to emphasize that the Senate has no alternative but to conduct investigations as long as there are

privilege speeches."

"At no instance did I (order) a stop to privilege speeches. It's a twist of the opposition (camp)."

He also believed that there was nothing unusual in proposing such a moratorium. "In informal caucuses of senators, we propose regularly that we do not avail (ourselves) so much of the Privilege Hour so we focus more on legislations that are pending."

He lamented that the Senate inquiry sparked by Lacson's first privilege speech on Aug. 18 had degenerated into a venue for political mudslinging.

"But I'm not afraid," Drilon told the INQUIRER in an interview, apparently referring to his having become the subject of criticism. Political attacks, he said, were part of the territory. "These are all politics (sic)."

Angara, Osmeña

In a joint statement, opposition senators Edgardo Angara and Sergio Osmeña III accused Drilon, who said the other day that the Senate probe was "facing a blank wall," of reaching an "unwarranted conclusion."

Angara and Osmeña are chairs of the Senate committees on constitutional amendments and on banking and finance.

Both committees were designated as secondary committees to help out the principal committee, the blue ribbon, in

investigating Lacson's exposé about the alleged Jose Pidal accounts.

"We are still in the process of finding out matters related to the Pidal accounts," Angara and Osmeña noted.

They said that Drilon's claim that the Senate inquiry would "result in nothing because of lack of evidence" might "unwittingly create the impression of a Senate cover-up."

They chided the chamber's chief for "misreading the law and public opinion."

Premature

Angara, an ex-Senate president, said it was "premature" for Drilon to insinuate that no original bank statements might be presented in the course of the hearing.

"Who knows? They might be forthcoming?" he said.

Angara claimed that copies of bank statements and checks—such as those submitted by Lacson last Monday—were considered as secondary evidence which "are admissible as pieces of evidence even in a court of law."

Lacson's spokesperson, Lito Banayo, accused Drilon of being "biased" against Lacson for allegedly "preempting the Senate committees."

He described Drilon's statement as "an undisguised bias for the First Gentleman

since as a lawyer, he knows for a fact that photocopies can be used as secondary evidence in the absence of the original documents."

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom Lacson had accused of laundering money through his Jose Pidal alias, will ask the Senate to stop its probe.

Plead

In a press conference at the LTA Building in Makati City yesterday, Arroyo lawyer Atty. Jesus I. Santos said he will "plead in writing" to Drilon regarding the issue.

He explained that Lacson has yet to present any substantial evidence to pin down the First Gentleman.

"The Senate is wasting its time and the time of the Filipino people. This issue is already affecting the economy. Drilon himself said he (Lacson) should present his evidence because the burden of proof is with the accuser. He had already given two (privilege) speeches," Santos said.

In a Quezon City forum, a prominent political lawyer said the Senate was "setting a dangerous precedent" against civil liberties by forcing Ignacio Arroyo, the First Gentleman's brother, to tell all regarding the controversial Jose Pidal bank accounts despite his invocation of his right to privacy.

"The Senate is setting a dangerous

precedent by saying that a person cannot invoke his right to privacy," Romulo Macalintal said. "The Senate will become a super body that even the Supreme Court may not be able to restrain."

In the same forum, Amado Valdez, former law dean of the University of the East, made a comparison between the Congress' power to investigate and a person's right to privacy.

Auxiliary right

Valdez said that Congress' power to investigate is only to aid it in legislation, and therefore it is an "auxiliary right."

The right to privacy, according to Valdez, who holds the rank of Cabinet undersecretary as executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement, is an "inherent right" that can therefore prevail over an auxiliary right.

In Baguio City, ex-Education Secretary Raul Roco denounced "treacherous leaders" whose betrayal of the country, he said, is the primary reason for its continued decline.

"Too much noise, Roco said, permeates society today. He said the ongoing Senate inquiry into the supposed Jose Pidal accounts is being conducted in "aid of reelection, not legislation." *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Carlito Pablo; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'F4'-2 + 1 here for P25-M gig tonight

From page A1

popular band members who are the lead actors in the Taiwanese drama, "Meteor Garden," that has captured the hearts of Filipino soap opera fans.

While a huge crowd was gawking at what they thought were "Ken Zhu" and "Vaness Wu" as they emerged from a tube at Gate 4 of the Naia Terminal 1, a smaller group was greeting the real Ken Zhu and Vaness Wu on the tarmac as soon as their China Airline plane touched down at 3:45 p.m.

The pair that came in through Gate 4 were actually Aaron Lim and MJ Coronel, employees of the ABS-CBN Talent Center who were dressed in maroon-colored shirts in the style of the real Ken and Vaness.

The network and the concert organizer, Vigslim Entertainment Production, had devised the plan to divert the attention of airport personnel, security, media and fans who were waiting for the arrival of the Taiwanese stars.

The genuine Vaness, who wore a plain white T-shirt, and Ken, who was dressed in an olive-green collarless shirt, rode in an ABS-CBN van, backed by a white Mercedes Benz van, that brought them to the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Most of the airport's workers left their posts a half-hour before the Taiwanese celebrities' scheduled arrival, and had gathered near Gate 4 to get a glimpse of their idols, unaware that the two young men they were seeing were decoys.

"Their (Ken and Vaness) Taiwanese

handlers are extremely strict because of a traumatic experience that happened to the artists in another Asian country," explained Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations.

She said ABS-CBN had been instructed to use only one video camera, and to ban the taking of still photos and even autograph signing.

Even the Taiwanese ambassador to the Philippines was reportedly not allowed to have his photo taken with the two F4 band members, Manalastas said.

Exclusive coverage

The network holds the exclusive coverage and interview rights to the visit of the Taiwanese stars who are performing tonight in a show billed as "The Event."

Earlier yesterday morning, the Meteor Garden's female star Barbie Xu (Shan Cai) had planed in with her sister Dee Xu, their mother and four Taiwanese delegates.

In the ensuing commotion, Barbie's mother was reportedly left behind on the plane, but she soon caught up with the six-member entourage.

The INQUIRER learned that Ken and Vaness will be singing only four songs each in tonight's concert.

Filipino talents Gary Valenciano, Kyla, The Company, Nina, South Border, and Luke Mejares will fill up the rest of the show.

Tickets to the show cost P10,500, P5,000, P3,200, P2,000, P1,200 and P500.

Vaness and Ken are two of the five lead stars of the Taiwanese chinovela "Meteor Garden," shown daily on ABS-CBN television. Vaness is known in the series as Mei Zhuo, and Ken is Xi Men.

The two other F4 band members—Jerry Yan who plays Dao Ming Shi, and Vic Zhuo as Hua Ze Lei—in the show are not performing tonight.

P25-M talent fee

Industry sources said Vigslim Entertainment spent P25 million on talent fees alone for the three Taiwanese stars, in addition to picking up the tab for their accommodations and air fare and the cost of mounting the production.

Airport police chief Angel Artutubo said he was surprised at the "warm reception" that airport employees gave earlier yesterday morning to Barbie's group and so decided to triple the security personnel for the arrival of Ken and Vaness in the afternoon.

"We didn't expect the airport staff members to be this excited. Even the janitors and security guards all wanted to see Shan Cai," said Artutubo.

Kristina Mapa, a Saudi Airlines passenger service agent, said she and other crew members left the plane as soon as it parked on the tarmac at 3 p.m. to await the arrival of the two "Meteor Garden" stars.

"This is my only chance to see the F4 because I was not able to buy tickets to their concert," said Andrea Custodio of Duty Free Philippines.

"I was told that as early as August, Ticketworld outlets were no longer selling tickets cheaper than P1,200," she said.

Aldo San Pedro, who described himself as a die-hard F4 fan, said: "I think the fans are being short-changed. They are not getting their money's worth. But I'm still going to watch the show."

Fully booked

At the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, executives reportedly had to declare that the hotel was fully booked after receiving numerous reservations mostly from Chinese-Filipino fans of the group.

Edsa Shangri-la executive Sharon Cayanan suggested this may not just be because of the Taiwanese stars. She said the hotel was full because "there are lots of medical and international conventions going on."

On Sept. 21, ABS-CBN will air not the concert itself but a two-hour special to be hosted by Kris Aquino.

Ken, 24, was born in Taiwan but was raised in Singapore. He was a captain waiter in a Japanese restaurant before being discovered by the "Meteor Garden" producers.

Vaness, 24, was born in the US. He came to Taiwan to join a talent contest when he was asked to audition for the show.

Barbie is also popular in Taiwan as a singer and TV host. She is Big S in ASOS, a singing duo, with her sister, who is known as Small S.

She has been hosting a daily musical variety show in Taiwan, "100% Enter-

tainment," for the past five years.

Police officials have warned motorists and commuters that unless they had pressing business in the area, they should stay away from the vicinity of the Philsports football field, formerly known as the Ultra Dome, in Pasig today.

Hundreds of vehicles are expected to clog up the streets surrounding the Dome as early as lunchtime as the concert of Vaness, Barbie Xu and Ken will be sure to draw thousands of fans from Metro Manila and nearby provinces, said Eastern Police District police chief Sr. Supt. Ernesto Catungal.

Tight security

Catungal said authorities are not just concerned about the volume of vehicles but also car thieves.

Security will be extra tight, said EDP head Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento who met with Ultra Dome management and the concert's organizers on Wednesday to finalize security arrangements.

Plainclothes policemen will be fielded inside the concert hall itself and foot patrols and mobile cars will be doubled, he said.

"We have not received reports of sabotage or anything like that, but we are preparing all the same," Sacramento said.

"There is no stopping this concert now. Again, we urge the fans to be vigilant. If you see something that is not right, don't hesitate to approach the cops," he said.

With a report from Luige del Puerto

FOUR DIGIT

9 0 4 3
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
9 2 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45

14 18 34 42 43

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Special cells for very important prisoners

By Margaux Ortiz

ENOUGH of the embarrassing jailbreaks.

A National Police Commission (Napolcom) official said yesterday that it was time to set guidelines on the handling of very important prisoners and avoid incidents like the escape of terror suspect Fathur Roman al-Ghozi.

Napolcom commissioner Miguel Coronel said special cells should be constructed for high-profile and high-risk detainees to prevent any escape.

Al-Ghozi and two members of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group escaped from the Philippine National Police-Intelligence Group detention center due to the defective barrel bolt on their cell.

Coronel added that personnel tasked to secure people like Al-Ghozi should undergo strict screening and thorough background investigation.

A rigorous selection of jail guards would lessen the chances of escape and prevent finger pointing in any eventuality, the Napolcom official pointed out.

Greenpeace lays siege to GMO firm in Alabang



GREENPEACE environmental activists unfurl a giant protest banner outside the offices of Monsanto at the 7th floor of the Madrigal Business Park in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The group is accusing Monsanto of contaminating the environment with its genetically modified agricultural produce.

By Margaux Ortiz

A TRINITY came down from above yesterday morning and delivered a warning that read: Monsanto + WTO = Environmental Destruction.

There was nothing religious about the message, however, and the "trinity" was not from heaven but from the environmentalist group Greenpeace.

It was a little past 9:30 a.m. when three Greenpeace members rappelled from the top floor of the 13-story Madrigal Business Park in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

As they made their descent, they unfurled a huge yellow banner that exclaimed their condemnation of Monsanto, a US-based company that provides agricultural products and integrated solutions to farmers.

Monsanto markets genetically modified organisms or GMOs, plants or animals whose DNA have been altered in a laboratory.

The trio stopped on the 7th floor of the building, where Monsanto has its corporate headquarters in the Philippines.

Caught off guard, infuriated security officers of the Madrigal Business Park threatened to cut the activists' ropes, Greenpeace genetic engineering campaigner Beau Bacongus claimed.

The three activists were briefly detained then released after building officials filed a minor complaint with the local police.

In a statement, Bacongus said Monsanto was unleashing envi-

ronmental havoc with its Bt Corn, the first genetically engineered crop commercially released in the Philippines.

Bt Corn is being distributed in the country under the name "Yieldguard," Bacongus said.

According to her, the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry had given the go-ahead for Yieldguard, making it the first GMO to be approved for commercial planting in the Philippines and one of the first in Asia.

Bacongus said the approval was based in part on local field trials that showed significant increases in yield and reduced need for pesticides.

"We raised many issues regarding the approval of this genetically modified corn, but we were apparently ignored by the government," the environmentalist lamented.

Bacongus warned that apart from possible health hazards, Monsanto's patent on Bt Corn would promote exploitation of developing countries like the Philippines.

The Greenpeace spokesperson added they were simultaneously protesting the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings in Cancun, Mexico.

"The WTO is aiding and abetting the control of US corporations like Monsanto on our genetic resources via genetic engineering," Bacongus stressed.

Monsanto and Madrigal Business Park administrators refused to comment when reached by the INQUIRER.

Robbers hit 4th bank in 2 weeks

By Tina Santos

METROBRIEFS

Bogus agent

WESTERN Police District have arrested two men, one of whom claimed to be an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, after a car chase in Manila. Investigators yesterday revealed that when they searched the car of suspects Marc Ace F. Tagoch, 23, of Cavite, and Rommelito D. Almada, 30, of Laguna, they found a .357-caliber revolver and drug paraphernalia. On Sept. 11 at around 5 a.m., members of the Western Police District's mobile patrol unit ran after a silver Honda V-Tec sedan (XEG-825) after the driver beat the red light on Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila. When the sedan stopped, Tagoch got down and allegedly told the police that he is an NBI agent, showing them his badge. Lawmen checked with the NBI and learned that no agent surmised Tagoch works for the bureau.

Lella Salaverria

Luckless robbers

LUCK had run out for suspected robbers Junard Villamiro, Benjie Manjate and Victor Donos. On Thursday, members of a police mobile unit chanced on the suspects as they were getting out of the cab they had just robbed in a dimly lit street in Pasig City. Police said Manjate, and Donos, both aged 19 and residents of Valenzuela City, and Villamiro, 20, of Pasig City, were armed with a handgun, an ice pick and a screwdriver, when they robbed the taxi of Arsenio Mercado, 43, on Amang Rodriguez Avenue. When the three men saw the police car, they panicked and ran. The lawmen gave chase and soon caught up with the suspects.

Luig del Puerto

Behind bars

IT WAS a bittersweet experience for a fruit and vegetable vendor to see one of three men who robbed him in Pasig City locked up behind bars. "How could I forget you?" victim Raniel Candelaria yesterday told the suspect, Marlon Galida, 21, of Barangay Bangbang. "It was you who punched me in the face and took my money." On Thursday, Candelaria was walking on F. Antonio Street when three armed men took his clutch bag containing P50,000. Candelaria told police that it was Galida who punched him in the face. Galida, whose lips were cut, denied any hand in the robbery. He said he was just invited to the station to look at photos. "Honestly, I don't know what they are talking about," said Galida in tears.

Luig del Puerto

Suspects acquitted

FOR LACK of evidence, two men have been cleared of drug peddling charges. Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53 Judge Reynaldo Alhambra acquitted Reynaldo Tia of Tuazon Street, Manila, and Elmer Ilcoso, of San Miguel, Quiapo, of charges of selling shabu. The two were arrested in a buy-bust operation on March 8, 1996. The court ruled that while "evidence establishes strong suspicion or probability," it does not prove the guilt of the accused.

Tarra Quismundo

BANK robberies are on a roll after four suspects took P200,000 during a heist at a Valenzuela City bank yesterday—the fourth such incident in two weeks.

The Planters Bank branch in Marulas had just opened its doors to business at 9 a.m. when a man carrying a clutch bag entered the bank and started filling up a deposit slip.

Moments later, two other men entered the bank, pulled out handguns and disarmed security guard Rex Cadangin.

The man inside the bank then also pulled out a gun and announced a holdup. They then ordered bank customers and employees to the floor.

One suspect dragged branch manager Lilibeth Buencamino to the vault and ordered her to open it at gunpoint.

After ransacking the vault and taking the cash and valuables of customers and employees, the three men ran out of the bank and joined another suspect who acted as lookout.

The suspects who were wearing sunvisors and casual clothes then jumped on two black Isuzu motorcycles and drove off toward Malabon.

An hour later, policemen found one of the motorcycles abandoned in Potrero, Malabon, after it collided with a tricycle. Its occupants reportedly took a passenger jeep-



ARTIST'S sketch of two of the four Valenzuela bank rob suspects.

ney headed for Monumento.

Valenzuela City police chief Supt. Jose Marcelo blamed the lax bank security.

Marcelo said the suspects managed to enter the bank with their firearms undetected by security guard Charlie Cantonjos.

The police chief hinted at an inside job saying minutes after the suspects entered the bank and just before these announced the heist, Cantonjos, went to the comfort room on the second floor.

Marcelo said they found a black backpack unwittingly left by the robbers inside the vault.

The bag contained 17 bullets for a caliber .38 revolver and an identification card of an Ayala Greenfield Estate Project bearing the name of Leandro Lagmay and JAC Liner bus tickets.

The successful robbery at the Planters Bank happened a day after eight suspects fled with P1.5 million from a Bank of Philippine Islands branch in Cavite.

On Sept. 1, three men made off with P300,000 from the Unionbank branch at the Rodeo Building in Parañaque City. One of the suspects in that heist has reportedly been arrested.

And the robbery that kicked it all off was that at the Citibank branch at the Makati Central Business District on Aug. 25.

Citibank officials have refused to say how much was taken by the 15 heavily armed suspects that stormed the bank.

The robberies have been linked to alleged moves to destabilize the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Barangay chief accuses solon of forging signature

ROLANDO Rivera, chair of Barangay 186 in Tala, Caloocan, yesterday threatened to file charges against Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echeverri and several others for allegedly forging his signature in an anomalous transaction.

Rivera revealed that he got the surprise of his life when he received a letter from the city's accounting office, asking if he had received pieces of communication equipment from Echeverri. The Caloocan congressman used his Countrywide Development Fund to purchase the equipment, according to Rivera.

A member of Echeverri's staff yesterday denied Rivera's allegations.

Rivera said he was shown a

copy of an invoice receipt where his signature appeared, indicating that he had received at least 20 units of UHF/FM handheld transceivers and other communication gadgets amounting to almost P500,000.

He added Echeverri's signature also appeared in the same invoice receipt.

Rivera said he did not sign any receipt, and insisted that not a single piece of radio equipment was delivered to his office. He said he would also file charges against officials of the Department of Transportation and Communication for participating in the anomalous transaction.

Tina Santos

3 fires break out in 2 cities

THREE fires had broken out in Manila and Las Piñas City.

According to the Las Piñas Fire Station, the fire started at 3:05 p.m. in the Nysan Hardware warehouse on Canaynay Road, Casimiro.

The blaze spread quickly and reached second alarm. Firemen were able to control the blaze at around 3:45 p.m.

In Manila, over P350,000 worth of property were destroyed in two fires.

F03 Jojo Magallanes said that the first fire broke out in a two-sto-

ry building on A. Linao Street, Paco, at 9:15 p.m. Thursday.

The building, owned by Augusto Ong, was partly destroyed in the fire that reached the third alarm. Firemen put out the blaze at 10:09 p.m.

The second fire hit the house of Romelito Geronilla on Buenos Aires Street, Altura, Sta. Mesa.

Arson investigators said the blaze started at 3:52 a.m. yesterday and reached the third alarm. It was put out at 4:23 a.m. *Alcuin Papa and Leila Salaverria*

Somebody's got to stand up to Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



So, it's understandable why many of his colleagues are afraid of Lacson enough to leave him alone to do his thing in the Senate. They don't want to suffer the fate of that little girl.

It's also understandable why the Supreme Court until now has not released its decision on the Kuratong Baleleng case. The honorable justices of the high tribunal are probably scared of Ping Lacson.

My spy in the high court said that the majority of the justices have voted to return the Kuratong Baleleng case to the lower court for trial.

The "Kuratong" case involved the execution of 11 bank robbery suspects by policemen headed by Lacson who was chief of Task Force Habagat of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

Since the charge is multiple murder, Lacson and his co-accused will be in jail while it is being heard in court.

The high tribunal was supposed to have remanded the case to the lower courts months ago, but it has not.

Lacson is probably one person who commands fear among people who know him.

The fear is not unfounded because the reputation of the senator from Cavite precedes him.

But if everybody is scared of this man, who will prosecute him for the alleged crimes he has committed against society?

If you ask me, I'm afraid of Lacson more than anybody else is of him because I know how ruthless he is, having covered him as a police reporter.

People who say they're not afraid to die are either lying or crazy.

But somebody's got to stand up to this dangerous man.

Evil triumphs when good men do nothing.

Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez was put to shame again Thursday when broadcaster Korina Sanchez refused to heed her summons to attend a hearing of her committee on public information for the third time.

Martinez wanted Sanchez at the committee to humiliate the latter. The lawmaker wanted to get back at the broadcaster who called her "bastos" in her TV program

"Morning Girls" with Kris Aquino.

Martinez stands no chance against Sanchez not because she is fighting a famous broadcaster but because she is tampering with a citizen's right to free speech, a right enshrined in the Constitution.

This is the reason Martinez's colleagues laugh at her behind her back.

The congresswoman from Cebu has been soliciting support from other legislators in fighting Sanchez, but they've adopted a "hands-off" policy.

So as not to embarrass her, some congressmen attended the committee hearing Thursday at which Korina Sanchez was a no-show.

Kris Aquino, Korina's co-host at "Morning Girls," did answer Martinez's summons Thursday.

But only to humor the congresswoman from Cebu.

When the video of Kris and Korina was replayed at the session hall, the people laughed, making Clavel look like the laughingstock that she was. All Clavel could do was manage a nervous grin, according to a spectator.

Ay, Day, ginakatawan ka na sa mga tawo, pero di ka pa muhunong sa imong binuang (People are laughing at you, but you haven't stopped your foolishness).

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JOHNNY Abarrientos attacks Shell's defense in the final quarter of last night's game.

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

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SPORTS

Biggest ever 3As assured, says Go

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to grace the opening ceremony of the 44-nation Asian Amateur Athletics championships set Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Although she has yet to confirm her attendance, Ms Macapagal had already thrown her support for the country's third hosting of the 3As by instructing all government agencies to help the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association ensure the event's success.

Patafa president Go Teng Kok, appearing as guest in yesterday's Scoop sa



15th Asian Athletics Championships

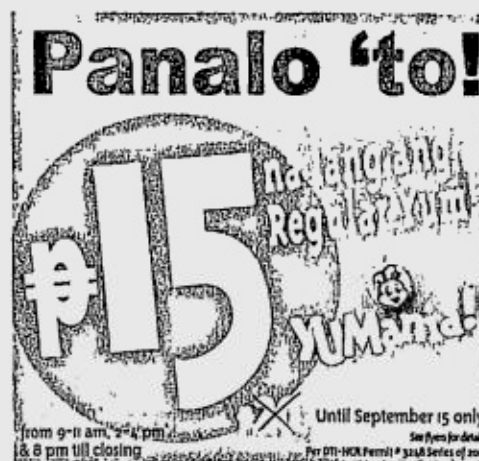
Kamayana, said only North Korea is not competing among the 45 members of the 3As, whose inaugural staging was held in Marikina in 1973.

Among the major attractions are hammer thrower Gu Yuan of China, who holds the meet record with a 71-meter heave, and Sri Lanka's Susanthika Jayasinghe, who ruled the 100 m in the 2002 3As and the Busan Asian Games.

The Philippines will be counting on long jumpers Lerma Bulautian-Gabito and Marestella Torres and long-distance ace Eduardo Buenavista to at least surpass last year's finish of one silver and one bronze from Gabito and Torres, respectively.

International Athletics Federation president Lamine Diack of Senegal and 3As head Shri Suresh Kalmadi of India are also expected to preside over the 3As congress which will be held Sept. 19.

Former Olympian Ben Silva-Netto, the Patafa secretary general, said that 1,200 athletes and officials are already in the registry eight days before the competition starts.



Coke import shames Shell

GAME TODAY (Urdaneta City, Pangasinan)
5 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—Artemus McClary came up with a triple-double performance and the Coca-Cola Tigers survived a spate of errors to pull out a 103-96 victory over the Shell Turbochargers last night at the Ynares Center here.

McClary erupted for 30 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and issued 10 assists to offset the Tigers' season-high 27 turnovers and boost Coca-Cola to its third straight win in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

The Tigers, who tied for the lead with idle Barangay Ginebra in Group B, are also a win away from tying their best start in franchise history, a 4-0 record during the season-opening All Filipino Cup.

Harold Arceneaux sank two free throws with two seconds left as Purefoods slipped past San Miguel Beer, 77-76, in the second game.

The Hotdogs snapped a 12-game losing streak to barge into the win-column and tie the Beermen at 1-2 in Group B.

"We're always good at the sprint but most of the time we fare poorly in the long run," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, recalling the 'Tigers' four straight setbacks after going 4-0 in the first conference.

The Turbochargers, who missed the services of a flu-stricken Chris Jackson, dropped their second consecutive game and fell into a tie with Red Bull Barako at 1-2.

Meanwhile, Norman Gonzales of Talk 'N Text has been reinstated by the PBA, although he won't be seeing action when TNT plays Alaska today in Urdaneta City in Pangasinan.

The second out-of-town schedule in the conference is sponsored by Air Philippines.

Gonzales is ready to rejoin his teammates but interim coach Virgil Villavicencio said the former San Bada standout would have to wait until the Phone Pals' next game against Purefoods on Friday.

Without Jackson, the Turbochargers had a rough time in the opening minutes as McClary quickly asserted himself on the offensive end.

McClary, who registered his second triple-double in the league after achieving the feat for Mobiline in 1998, was somehow bottled up by Sedic Webber in the waning minutes of the third quarter, allowing the Turbochargers to get back into the fight.

Webber's fastbreak and Mike Hrabak's free throws enabled the Turbochargers to charge back to 63-68 from 18 points down in the third canto.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 103—McClary 30, Morano 19, Hatfield 17, Carliso 14, Reavis 7, Abarrientos 5, Antonio 5, Junio 4, Wainwright 2, Huganatan 0.

SHELL 96—Webber 26, Laure 20, Dela Cruz 20, Singson 10, Calaguito 10, Tubid 5, Hrabak 4, Marzan 1, Bajaj 0.

Quarters: 30-20, 56-42, 75-65, 103-96

MOTOR SPORTS: F1

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Knicks, Game 7, 1995 Eastern Semifinals; 7:30

a.m.; Solar Sports—Indiana eliminates bitter rival

New York in the decisive game eight years ago.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



Compiled by Lorenzo Mangubat



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W ironman2



W elektra2



W spider5

TEXT CARDS



TC dd



TC storm



TC cyclops1



TC wolvie1

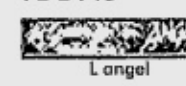


TC spider1



TC wolvie2

ICONS



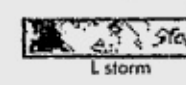
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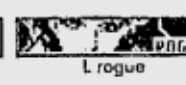
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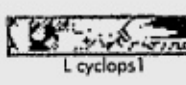
L torch



L storm



L rogue



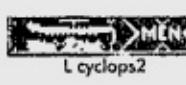
L cyclops1



L spider1



L wolvie1



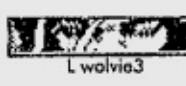
L cyclops2



L spider2



L wolvie2



L wolvie3

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Ateneo seeks sweep of La Salle

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—NU vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle-Zobel vs Ateneo (Jrs)

THIS is one game four-time titleholder La Salle would dearly love to win.

Defending champion Ateneo, however, knows the implication of a setback, and hopes not to blink as it tries to sweep its rival in the eliminations of the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Just like their first-round meeting which ended in the Eagles' favor, 82-68, today's repeat encounter between the country's most popular collegiate clubs will attract hordes of spectators.

It will also be a clash between the proven poise of Ateneo and La Salle's youthful exuberance.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	10	3
FEU	10	3
UE	9	3
La Salle	7	5
Adamson	5	8
UST	4	8
NU	3	10
UP	2	10

(10-3) of the No. 1 spot and the twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four even if FEU (10-3) and UE (9-3) also win their remaining games and finish with identical 11-3 cards.

But a loss would have serious repercussions since Ateneo may yet finish third and lose the twice-to-beat edge in the crossover semis.

"We're feeling relaxed," said La Salle coach

"I'm sure La Salle is all fired up to equalize after that first round result," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal. "We're ready and treating this game as do-or-die."

Thanks to the quotient, a victory would assure the Eagles

Franz Pumaren. "Regardless of the result, we're already in the Final Four and today's match is only about pride."

La Salle gained passage to the semis with a 7-5 record following Adamson's loss to FEU Thursday.

Rich Alvarez, chasing an unprecedented third MVP title, Wesley Gonzales, Paolo Bugia, Lewis Tenorio and Larry Fonacier make Ateneo's starting five the best in the league.

To have a chance, the Archers, bannered by Mark Cardona, must not allow the explosive Eagles to jump the gun on them as in their first clash.

La Salle, champions from 1998 to 2001, also needs to get heady shows from Joseph Yeo, Junjun Cabatu, Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos and Jervin Gaco to relieve the pressure off Cardona.

The Archers continue enjoy a 26-17 lead in their head-to-head clash with the Eagles.

Dennis U. Erosa

Ang World Class na Tsinelas...

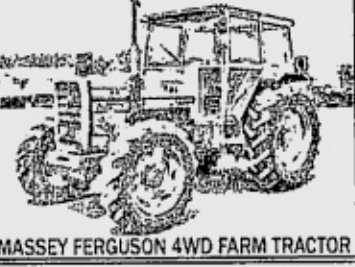
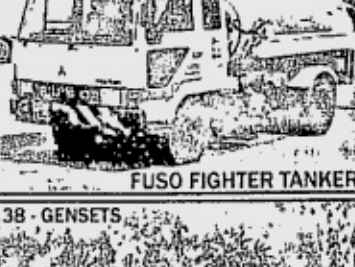


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JERVIN Gaco (left) and Oliver Cua of La Salle keep Ateneo's Rich Alvarez from getting to the ball in their first meeting, which the Eagles won.

Pages charities sink Baby Tigers

UNIVERSITY of the East converted nine of 10 free throws in the home stretch to down stubborn Santo Tomas, 81-78, and solidify its Final Four bid in the UAAP junior basketball tournament last Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Showing poise under pressure, the Pages, starring Julius Porlaje, Paul Zamar, Leo Sumalinog and Jerome Tungcul, broke away from a 70-68 advantage, with four minutes remaining, on consistent foul-shooting.

The 6-foot Porlaje, Tungcul and Zamar gave UE a 79-72 lead with one minute remaining.

With the win, the Pages tied La Salle-Zobel in third place with a 6-4 mark, while the Baby Tigers dropped to 5-6.

Ateneo is already assured of the twice-to-beat edge in the Fi-

nal Four with an 11-1 mark, its only loss inflicted by Santo Tomas in the first round.

Joining Ateneo in the semis is Adamson with a 9-2 card.

Zamar, eldest son of UE Warriors mentor Boyzie, had three triples as the Pages erased a 39-41 halftime deficit, but they just could not put away the Baby Tigers, who got heady shows from the hot-shooting Aldwin Flores.

Flores made five of six triples as UST threatened last at 68-70.

Dennis U. Erosa

Scores:
UE 81—Porlaje 23, De la Cruz 19, Zamar 16, Tungcul 12, Julian 5, Sumalinog 2, Simbulan 2, Mendoza 2, Valerio 2, Ogalino 0, Chua 0.
UST 78—Flores 25, Leyga 14, Panahon 14, Franco 10, Crisostomo 7, Poblete 4, Mejica 0, Principa 0.
Quarters: 11-24, 39-41, 60-57, 81-78

Juvic's 11

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



Thursday, Sept. 11, when he won the 2nd Riviera Amateur Open Championship at Riviera's Couples in Silang, Cavite.

He did it by erasing a three-stroke deficit with one round left, firing five birdies against a lone bogey for a last-round, 4-under-par 68. He did it by scoring the only sub-par total after 72 holes, counting his earlier 69-73-76.

He did it with the luxury of making bogey on the 72nd hole, and still winning running away. And he did it with a seven-shot margin over Marvin Dumandan, the man who was supposed to win since he is the "batang club." He was ahead by three shots over Juvic after 54 holes, only to soar to a last-day 78. Third was Korean Lee Seong Ki (78-294).

"Eleven has always been my lucky number," said Juvic, who won his SEA Games gold medal on Sept. 11, 2001. "This is only my second victory after Kuala Lumpur. And today is Sept. 11."

Lyn, Juvic's petite wife, was there to applaud when Juvic received his trophy from Commodore Danny Pizarro, Riviera's president. She was all smiles as she rose from her chair, baby in arms, to meet Juvic descending from the

stage. Among those applauding and later congratulating Juvic were golf's big shots Admiral Louie Fernandez, Taby Tabaniag, Jake Ayson, Tony Sisante and Mizuno's Benny Gopez.

"This is LJ, sir, our baby," said Juvic to me, embracing Lyn. "LJ as in L for 'Lyn' and J for 'Juvic'. Isn't she beautiful, sir?"

I believe 11 is Juvic's lucky number. He was born on May 11, 1978.

After I congratulated Juvic, I said hello to LJ, tapping her fingers; the baby cried.

"She's shy, sir," said Juvic.

Juvic said his goodbye and went back to the champion's table. The table's numbered "11."

FASTBREAK. If you don't know Col. Ely Buluran, he will readily strike you as not a jolly good fellow. Rotund, quick of movement, squint-eyed and with arms like Popeye's, Colonel Ely will impress you as that type who'd laugh only when there's really a good reason to laugh. Like if you tell him Dolphy has stopped being a comedian and will appear as Moses in the movie remake of The Ten Commandments. You will hear Colonel Ely immediately thunder away, the sound of his laughter echoing in the hills of Silang, Cavite, where the beautiful Riviera Golf & Country Club is nestled. It is in that serene and handsome spot that Colonel Ely has been holding fort for years now. I crossed paths with him again on Thursday, and what a fun-filled occasion that was—coconuts, a cool breeze and all. Again, he gave me laughs only he could dish out. And his hair dyed blonde has embellished his witty ways. *Mabuhay ka, Colonel Ely!*

CBL semis showdown starts today

THE CORPORATE Billiards League (CBL), the country's first major tournament of its kind, starts its single-round semifinals today with Beer na Beer facing Ginebra Kapitana at the Robinsons Galleria.

Beer na Beer, which ousted Imaflex, 7-6, in the eliminations, will be led by Marlon Manalo, Asia's No. 1 snooker player who caught international attention when he defeated former world champion Mika Immonen in Cardiff, Wales.

He will be joined by Al Ortega

Watch... Corporate Billiard League
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and Emil de la Paz in this event sponsored by Tanduay The No. 1 Rhum, with the support of Rommel's Billiards, the official table.

Ginebra Kapitana, which pulled a 7-5 win over Nikon, will be bannered by German Open champion Antonio "Gaga" Gabica as team captain. He will be backed by Asian

trickshot champion Julie Falcon Guevarra and Allan Dulao.

The match will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network at 8 p.m.

The top two teams after the round robin semifinals will battle each other in a best-of-seven title series for the P100,000 top purse.

Bustamante defends 7-ball crown

FILIPINO Francisco "Django" Bustamante will defend his title in the \$40,000 Sudden Death 7-ball billiard challenge slated Oct. 1-2 in Baltimore, US.

The 39-year-old Bustamante, who topped this year's \$50,000 International Challenge of Champions in Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Connecticut, leads an elite cast that includes reigning World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann and 2003 Pro Players champion Johnny Archer. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

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De Ocampo traded to Pop for 2 players

MONTAÑA has traded coveted big man Raniel de Ocampo to new-comer Pop Cola in exchange for Al Magpayo and Jayson Cuevas in the first major player movements of the coming PBL Second Conference set to start on Oct. 25.

"If we're thinking of just one conference then we will not trade De Ocam-

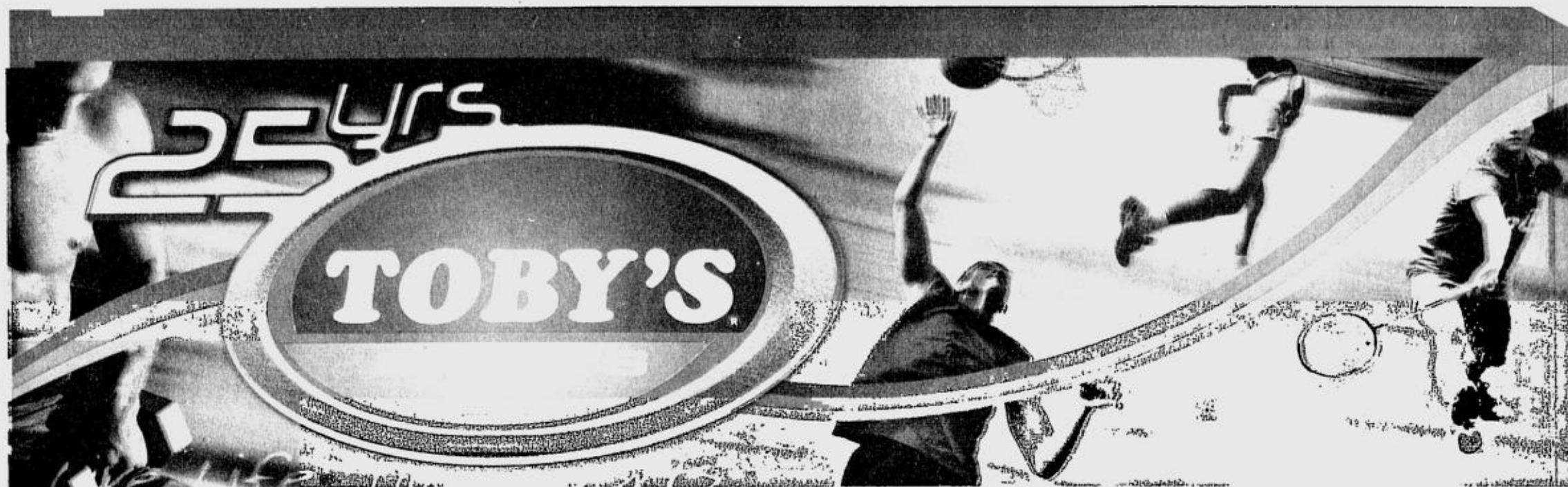
po because I know he's the best amateur center these days. But we have to be practical," said Montaña coach Bong Go. "We want to build a strong team in the coming conferences."

"If De Ocampo will turn pro next year, what will happen to us?" added Go. "So it's better to get a player who will stay with us a little

longer before turning pro."

The 6-foot-6 De Ocampo, a mainstay of the national team, is likely to turn pro next year.

The 6-5 Magpayo is one of the nine players taken by Pop Cola from the now-defunct LBC team. Cuevas, 6-4, also played for LBC last year but was left out by Pop Cola.



25 Years of Sports

The country's largest Sports Store turns 25

It's an early morning at the Greenhills Shopping Center; the *tiangge* crowd has yet to arrive in full force and a man in his fifties, dressed head to toe for a game of badminton, is standing on the street with a cup of coffee in his hand. The man is Roberto "Bobby" Claudio, Sr., founder of the biggest sports retail chain in the Philippines, Toby's Sports. He is on his way to his regular badminton game with his family but takes a detour this Sunday morning to check on the future location of Toby's Sports in Greenhills when it opens in November. Unlike the usual opening of another new Toby's branch, this one, in particular, has special significance. It's more of a homecoming for Claudio, who built the first-ever Toby's store right across the street 25 years ago.



Toby's Sports and Hobbies in the early 80's

25 Years Later

Today, Toby's Sports is constantly evolving to keep up with the times. When it comes to store design, features, merchandise, and staff, Toby's maintains their stronghold and continues to push the limits of the sports retailing industry. With 28 branches all over the Philippines, Toby's continues to bring sports into the homes and lives of millions of Filipinos.

From Toy Store to Super Store

Back in the days when the Greenhills Shopping Center was known for having fishponds and little trains as its main attractions and Aristocrat and Coney Island were still the places to meet and greet, there was a small and modest toy shop selling imported Disney goods in a quiet corner.

That time was 1978, and the Greenhills toy shop, which sold mainly Mickey Mouse and other Disney products, eventually evolved into what we all know now as Toby's Sports. Indeed, Toby's has gone a long way from its humble beginnings more than two decades ago.

Toby's Sports was the brainchild of Roberto Claudio, Sr. who, after having opened a toy store which he named after his eldest son in 1978, began to see the potential of sports retailing when his skateboards continued to sell even after the holidays were over. He eventually transformed his retail space into a sporting goods store that offered a wide array of sports apparel, equipment and accessories. At a time when sports accessories were found in Raon, Quiapo amongst other items, Toby's made a mark in the industry

as it revolutionized the sporting business. Toby's was relaunched as TOBY'S SPORTS & HOBBIES and it continued to build a chain of sports stores in locations around the Philippines. Its wide product assortment, international name brands, clean ambience, knowledgeable and professional sales personnel set them apart from the traditional stores in the Raon area. With their location in the emerging Greenhills Shopping Center and their shop design and layout, Toby's Sports was clearly different and ahead of its time.



Toby's Disneyland Booth in 1978.



The 2-Storey Toby's Sports Arena at Glorietta 2 in Makati.

Building an Interactive Sports Superstore

Bobby and Toby Claudio spent a little over 6 years living in Palo Alto, California in the 1980s. One of their favorite pastimes was catching baseball and football games in the adrenaline-packed Stanford University stadium. Twenty years later, the stadium served as their inspiration in coming up with their flagship store. "We have always wanted to put up a large-format store that could house the widest selection of sports brands under one roof," explains Bobby Claudio, chairman of the Toby's Group of Companies. "During our trips abroad, we were impressed by the sheer size of sports



An action-packed sports stadium served as the inspiration for Toby's Arena

(BUILDING AN...P 3 of supplement)

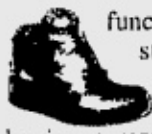
A History of Sports Innovations

Imagine a world without graphite racquets, spandex swimsuits, and those rubber shoes that put a little spring in your step. We'd all be left with severe tennis elbows, swim clothes that ballooned underwater, and callused feet. Thanks to innovations in sports technology, athletes can truly maximize their potential and reach their optimal sports performance levels.

For the past 25 years, Toby's Sports has given athletes the chance to take their chosen sport to new heights by making available to the public the latest and best sports technology available.

Reaching Greater Heights and Distances

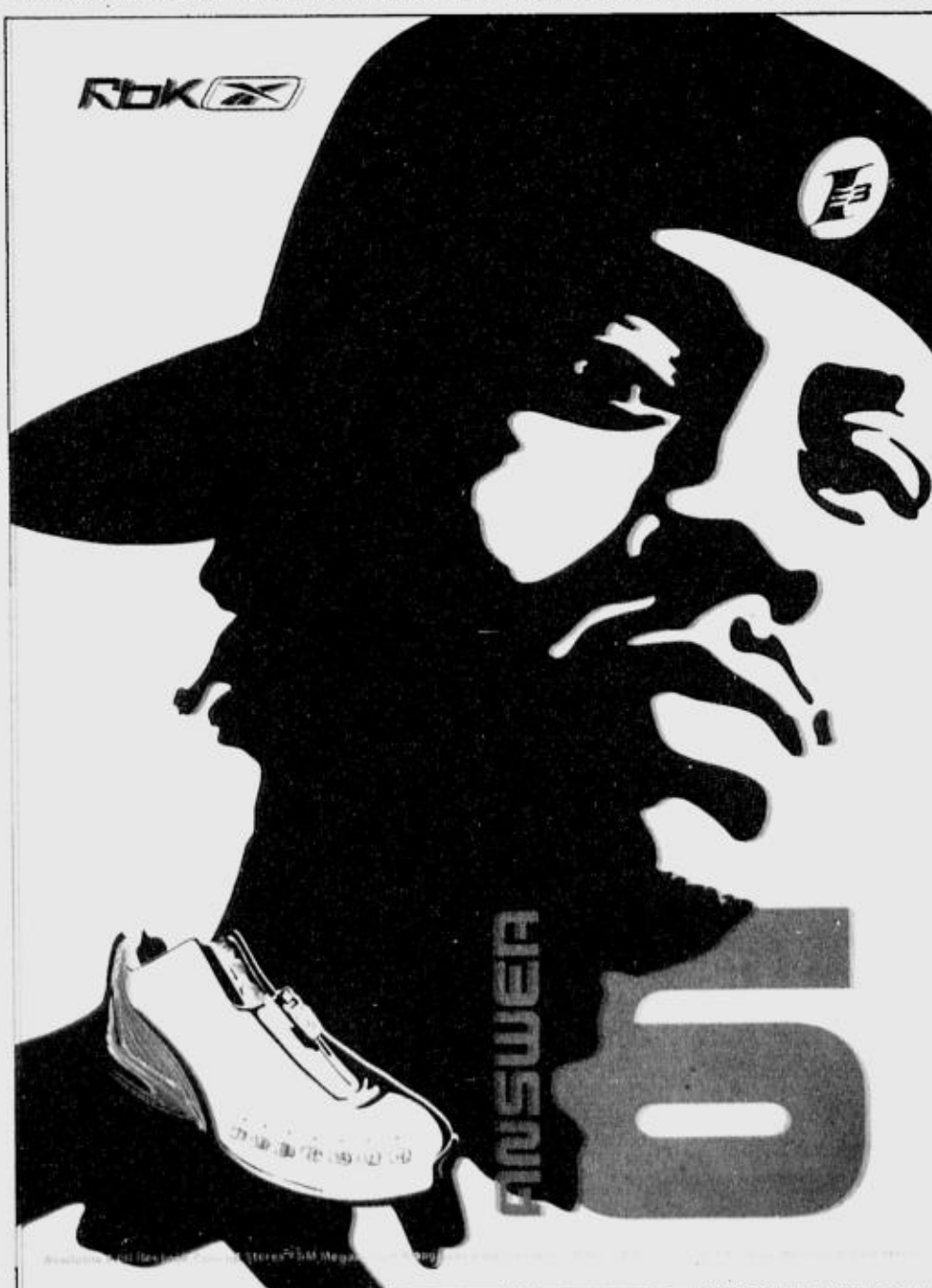
When Nike first introduced the Air Jordan, basketball fans—from pubescent boys to grown men—came to believe in the power of a shoe to launch a man to greater heights. Apart from the advanced technology of Nike Air, the late eighties also saw the advent of the Reebok Pump. Today, design and the basic



functionality of sports shoes and apparel are still carefully considered but greater emphasis has been placed on the added features. There's a difference between buying a regular running shoe to buying a running shoe that cools the feet. Such is the Adidas Climacool line whose ventilated upper, sockliner and sole provide a 360° cooling effect for the entire foot. Even Nike moved on from their Air technology to produce the technology of Nike Shox, which gives an added spring and a uniquely responsive feel.

Bringing Power to the People

Not to be left out in the dust, various sports equipment managed to keep up with the times by introducing materials that were once left to industrial projects or automobile parts. In the realm of tennis, the wooden racquets of Jack Kramer, and the Donnay racquet of tennis legend Bjorn Borg eventually gave way to Jimmy Connors and his first Wilson T-series steel racquet. History has seen it turn into



(A HISTORY OF...P 3 of supplement)

TOBY'S SPORTS ARENA: A SPORTS-LOVER'S PLAYGROUND

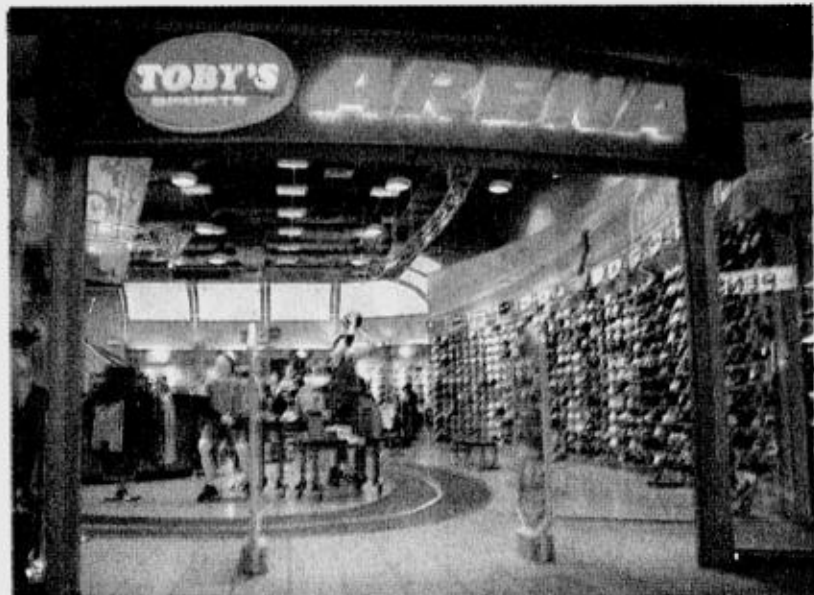
After 25 years in the business, Toby's has become a household name in the field of sports. Now with 28 stores nationwide, it has come a long way from the pro shop that started in Greenhills back in 1978. Nothing makes this more apparent than a visit to its new concept store, Toby's Sports Arena. With locations in four major shopping districts in Metro Manila this interactive, large-scale version of Toby's gives customers a truly unique shopping experience.

The Design

For starters, every Arena has a track oval that takes you through the superstore. At the two-level Glorietta store, you start off at the video wall where you can watch your favorite sports heroes in adrenaline-pumping action. Explore the different sections dedicated to water sports, outdoors, racquets, gym equipment, shoes, and apparel in the stylish interior designed to replicate the look and feel of a real sports arena. Complete with murals of cheering crowds and towering stadium canopies, you'll feel right in the center of the action.

Interactive Games

A visit to Toby's Arena isn't just about finding all the gear you need. You can also try different interactive attractions within the store. Test your basketball skills at "The Shootout,"



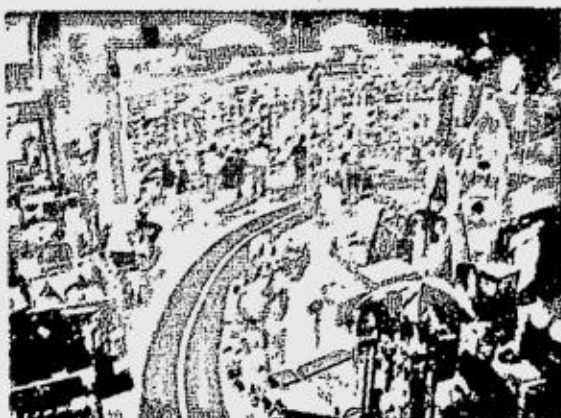
ENTER the country's largest sports store

a half-court shooting area with an authentic, professional court. Score high enough and your name could be posted on the Hall of Fame beside the best players in the country. You can also win a leather basketball if you're the highest scorer of the month. Win exclusive apparel from And1 if you're the week's top scorer. Better yet, step up and try your luck in the And1 Challenge and get a chance to win a pair of shoes from And1.

At the new SM North Edsa Annex branch, unleash your fears by scaling "The Rock," a 25-foot high freeform indoor climbing wall that serves as the centerpiece of this concept store. The Rock has five

different routes of varying difficulty that can accommodate beginner, intermediate, or advanced climbers. If getting up isn't a problem, push the limits by joining The Rock's 'Speed Climb Challenge.' Each month, the person who gets to the top in the shortest amount of time wins a special prize. At the center of the action is a massive shoe wall which accommodates over 700 shoe styles for almost any type of sports activity. Interactive kiosks are also located in the Arena to allow you to browse www.tobys.com, where you can check out all the specs and reviews of the newest gear to help you pick out the right equipment for your sport. Toby's Arena carries the widest selection of sports gear under

one roof with more than 60,000 items from more than 100 of the world's best brands such as Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Prince, Speedo, Wilson, And 1, K-Swiss, Yonex, Mikasa, Molten, Spalding, Dunlop, Proteus, RSL and many more. So whether you're there to shop or you're just looking for



VIEW from the top

some action in the mall, be sure to stop by Toby's Sports Arena. For all your sporting needs, you'll never have to go anywhere else again. Toby's Arenas are located at the SM North Edsa Annex, The Podium, Alabang Town Center and Glorietta 2.



THE Shootout: See how your skills stack-up against the best in the country



SCALE "The Rock" at SM North EDSA-Annex

Who is TOBY?

An avid sports-lover and athlete during his days as a student, it would seem too easy for Toby Claudio to assume the reins of the sports store his father began when he was only 4 years old. Never mind the fact that the store bears his name; his background and knowledge of sports left him the natural choice for a manager who could give the store the fresh look that it needed after nearly two decades in the business.

In his high school days in La Salle Greenhills, Toby had a voracious appetite for sports. Among the sports that he was into at that time were tennis, football, basketball, volleyball, and baseball. When he got to college in the University of the Philippines Diliman, he on the varsity baseball team, and he occasionally played golf and badminton in his spare time. Whenever he had the chance he would help out at the store.

"It was no secret that we were waiting for him to join the company after his college graduation," says his father, Bobby Claudio, who, along with his two brothers, Jojo Claudio and Rod Claudio, has been managing Toby's Sports since it began its operations in the late seventies.

"After graduation many people thought I would immediately work for the family business," Toby recalls. At that time though, Toby did not think that he was ready to settle into Toby's and felt that he needed to explore his other options.

With the blessing of his father, he joined Selecta as an Assistant Brand Manager in the marketing group and enjoyed his stay there for two years. When he eventually left to join Toby's, it came as no surprise to anyone. "It's difficult to have a store named after you," Toby points out. "It's a big responsibility to have your name on the sign, but ever since I was young I knew there's nothing I'd enjoy doing more than managing the business."

In 1999, he finally joined Toby's Sports full-time as Operations Manager and took charge of overseeing operations of all the company-owned branches. For regular Toby's customers, the new addition in management became obvious with the new and improved store designs, merchandise selection, in-store promotions, and advertisements that Toby initiated.

"It really worked to our advantage to have him on board because while Bobby and

"It's a big responsibility to have your name on the sign, but ever since I was young I knew there's nothing I'd enjoy doing more than managing the business."



Toby Claudio

I knew a lot about the retailing business, we needed a fresh perspective to inject some new life into our store's image," comments Jojo Claudio, President of Toby's Sports and uncle to Toby.

Today, in between regular meetings with his staff and suppliers, Toby is hard at work pouring over construction plans and materials to use for the newest Toby's branch. He makes it a point to be involved in the entire design and planning process, and concerns himself with even the smallest details of construction. At the end of the day, the look of Toby's Sports is still a reflection of the life of Toby Claudio—dynamic, vibrant, and constantly evolving.

Tobys Trivia

6,748,057: Total number of customers Toby's Sports has served since it opened in 1978

29: The highest score ever recorded at the Toby's Basketball Shootout (3 Point King)

4 seconds: The fastest time to the top recorded at 'The Rock' Speed Climb Challenge at Toby's Arena-SM North Edsa

157: The total number of local and international sports brands that can be found at a Toby's Sports Arena store

753,346: The total number of basketballs Toby's has sold since 1978

1982: The year Toby's Sports was first accredited by the United States Racquet Stringer's Association?

785: The number of different shoe styles displayed at a Toby's Sports Arena

Championing the enjoyment of sports for years to come

After 25 fruitful years, Toby's Sports remains to be top-of-mind when it comes to complete and affordable sports gear. For the management team of Toby's, the future brings a number of challenges, but these days, you'll find them spending more time looking inward, at least geographically.

that we continue to offer quality service and a wide array of affordable products. In fact, we are focusing majority of our efforts into building a strong product, which is in this case, our store."

Toby's has prided itself on being forward-looking, modern, and in-sync with the times. "Admittedly, up until a few years ago, we were



Modern look of the new SM City store

"We are committed to satisfying the growing needs of the Filipino sporting public"

considering the services and products offered to them. "Yes, we keep our competitors within our line of sight. But right now, we want to zone in more on improving ourselves and giving the customers a better shopping experience," stresses Jojo Claudio.

"As the leading one-stop sports store in the Philippines we are committed to satisfying the growing needs of the Filipino sporting public. By doing so, we can help make sports an even bigger part of Filipinos' lives," adds Toby.

To this end, Toby's has continuously supported grassroots sports development thru its various sports programs for such sports as Tennis, Darts and Badminton.

Thru support of youth programs such as the Futures Tennis Foundation and the annual Toby's Summer Tennis Festival, Toby's continues to help in the search for future Filipino sports champions. Jojo adds, "One day we hope to see more Filipinos fulfill their full potential



for sports. We want to be there every step of the way by continuing to provide the widest selection of quality sports gear for their every sporting need."



Dedicated managers and staff of Toby's Sports



Newly Renovated Toby's Sports at SM Megamall

"A lot of people expect us to expand, expand, expand—even beyond the Philippines," points out Jojo Claudio, President of Toby's Sports. "Certainly, we plan to do so within our country, and maybe, if the conditions permit it, we'll consider going outside the country in the future. But first and foremost we want to make sure

still stuck in the Toby's of the past. But when we found the right image, look, and feel that we felt would usher us into the new millennium, we hit the ground running and haven't stopped since," Claudio explains.

As compared to the past, customers have become more discriminating when it comes to



TOBY'S SPORTS FRANCHISE SYSTEMS: Bringing sports to the nation

In 1993, with 15 years of sports retailing expertise under its belt, it became only natural for Toby's Sports to step into a new phase by expanding its network of stores into the provinces. At that time, Toby's Sports, with its 14 company-owned stores located in major shopping malls in Metro Manila, had become a recognized leader in the retailing industry with a relentless flow of revolutionary sports retailing concepts. Its unique approach to owning and operating a top-class sporting goods pro-shop had been carefully developed, refined, and organized into the Toby's Sports Franchise Systems (TSF Systems), Inc.

Since then, TSF Systems, Inc. has accelerated the company's move towards a national scope via franchising. In addition to its 14 company owned stores, it has a total of 14 franchises operating in strategic regions within the country: *Alabang Town Center, SM Cebu, SM Southmall, Festival Supermall, Pavilion Mall in Binan, Ultimar in San Pablo City, SM City Pampanga, NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan, Robinsons Iloilo, Iligan City, Limketkai in Cagayan de Oro, SM City Davao, Victoria Plaza Davao, and Kimberly in Iloilo City.*

As it gears full swing to break through untapped markets, TSF Systems is scheduled to open four new franchise stores in *Greenhills, SM Marilao, Bulacan, and SM Lucena* within 2003. It remains focused in eyeing potential locations in other key cities in the country such as *Baguio, Laoag, San Fernando, La Union, Tuguegarao, Dagupan, Tarlac, Clark, Subic, Olongapo, Lipa, Legaspi, Naga, Bacolod, Tacloban, Butuan*, among others.

Building an... (From Page 1 of Supplement)



Feel the excitement of a real sports event

superstores and we decided that we wanted to come up with our own. "After numerous studies presented by DQA Industrial Design, the management team finally decided on a concept that they felt was truly their own. "We wanted a visit to Toby's Arena to be more than a shopping trip but rather, a total sports experience," says Toby Claudio. "Thru the Arena we wanted to customers to experience the feeling of being in the heat of an exciting and packed sports event", which explains the store design that DQA came up with.

A History of... (From Page 1 of Supplement)

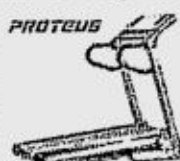
aluminum thanks to Yonex, and later on, Prince literally extended the material to produce the first aluminum Oversize racquet, to make the sport easier for beginners to learn and enjoy. Pro Kennex then introduced the use of graphite composites for racquets and ushered racquet production into a new generation. Gone were the days of simple-shaped wooden racquets. Between Prince's Oversize racquet head and Wilson's introduction of the Wide-body, the world began to see players displaying playing power that was previously unseen among their predecessors.

It's hard to imagine what the next breakthrough innovation will bring. Next thing you know, we'll start to see equipment with computers inside. Come to think of it, Head already makes a Tennis racquet with a micro-chip inside which they call the Intelligence

Ground-breaking Concepts

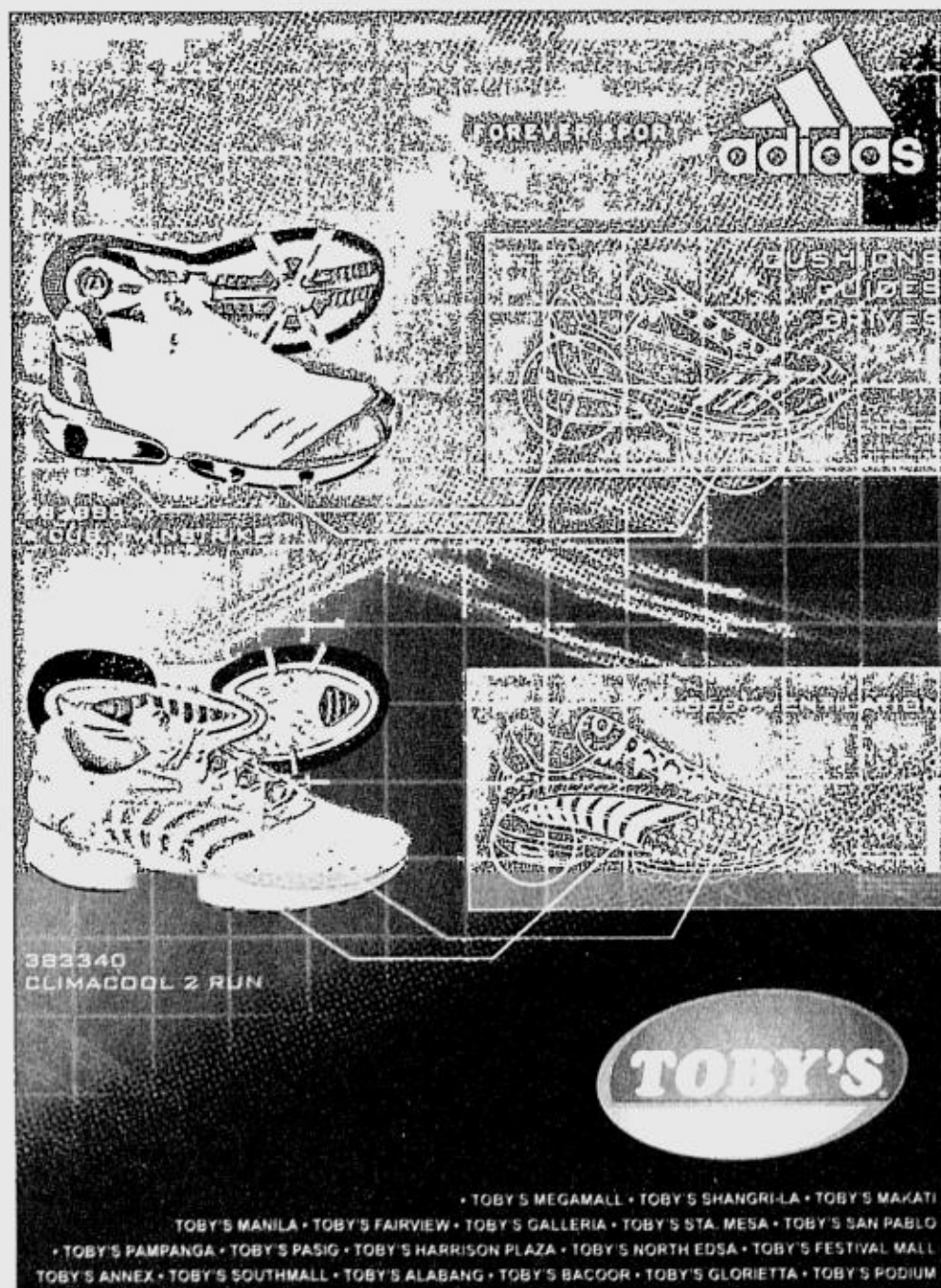
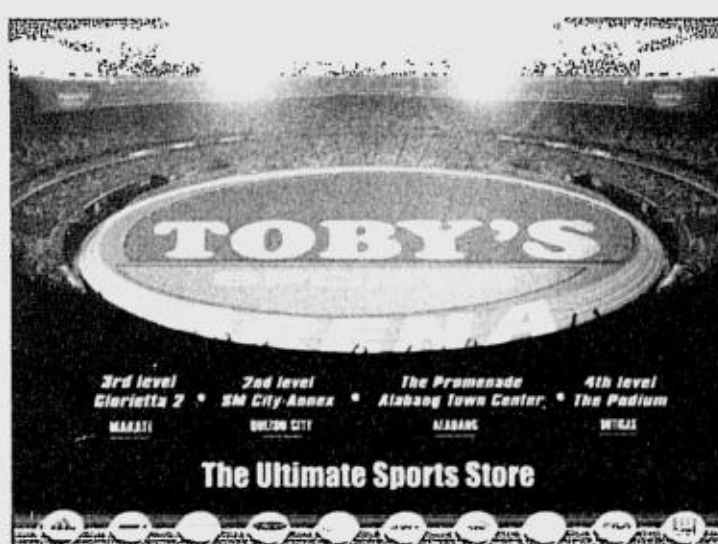
Undoubtedly, the wheel was one of the greatest inventions of all time that has not only made our lives easier, but a lot more fun. Leave it to the human race to go beyond cars and bicycles to come up with shoes that have wheels underneath for added mobile convenience. Once associated with disco rinks and drive-thrus in American movies, roller-skating eventually evolved into a legitimate sport. Reinvented by Rollerblade with the concept of in-line skating, a new effective exercise routine was born. The technology of in-line skating provides better balance for the user and allows for better control on speed and movement.

However, for the people who want to reap the benefits of aerobic and cardiovascular exercise without leaving the home, the treadmill was a heaven-sent invention that allowed the busy person to stay fit and improve stamina within a short period of time. Along with the stationary bike, stepper, and other training machines and weights, a person can work on every part of his body while staying



The Arena is born

"We wanted a visit to Toby's Arena to be more than a shopping trip but rather, a total sports experience"



comfortably indoors. There will always be more limits to explore, miles to run, and heights to reach. The future only holds more possibilities for man to go beyond what he is capable of doing in life and, definitely, in

sports. Toby's Sports shares in the commitment of these brands to bring products to the people that allow them to reach higher, go faster, and be stronger—and will continue to do so in the years to come.

WHAT'S IN A BRAND NAME:

1. **Reebok** Named after an African gazelle, two of the founder's grandsons started a companion company known as REEBOK in 1958. Joseph William Foster, the founder of Reebok, made some of the first known running shoes with spikes on them. His fledgling company, J.W. Foster & Sons, developed an international clientele of distinguished athletes.

2. Named after a Greek God of Victory. In 1962, before there was NIKE, there was Bill Bowerman and Phil Knight who gave birth to "Blue Ribbon Sports," the forerunner of Nike. In 1966, two more key players helped propel the company's early growth: Jeff Johnson, who gave Nike its name, and opened the first retail outlet in California, and Steve Prefontaine, the first major track athlete to wear a Nike product and have significant influence on the design of Nike's running shoes.

3. **adidas** A man named Adi Dassler produced his first handmade training shoes in 1920. The saga begins in Germany in his mother's 20sqm. washroom without electricity.

4. **AND 1** AND 1, basketball term for a counted shot after a foul, is the brainchild of Seth Berger, known to friends and family as "The Franchise," and the first founder and CEO. There were 5 other founders namely, Jay Coen Gilbert known as "Lottery", Tom Austin a.k.a. "T-Gunn", Guy Harkless a.k.a. "Money", Ray Moseley a.k.a. "Sugar" and Bart Houlihan a.k.a. "Dad".

5. **PUMA** Puma, another name for Cougar, a large tawny wild American cat. Rudolf Dassler founded PUMA in 1948 in Herzogenaurach, Germany. Direct business competition from his brother Adolf created the environment that was to charge the modern sports trade for decades.

6. **prince** Named after the town of Princeton in NJ. Working in his garage, Bob McClure invents Little Prince in 1970, the first tennis ball machine for home court use, and Prince Manufacturing is born. In 1971 to 1975, frustrated with his tennis game, Howard Head is introduced to the Prince Ball Machine. Soon he feels compelled to work out a few design bugs in the Ball Machine. Soon after, he became a majority owner and Chairman of the board.

7. **Wilson** Named after the president of Ashland Manufacturing Company, Thomas E. Wilson. In 1914, Ashland's original product line include surgical sutures, inexpensive tennis racquets, tennis racquet strings, and two models of baseball shoes. The company was shaped by its first general manager, E.C. Seaton, who was one of the early experts of the sporting goods industry.

8. **SPEEDO** Originally known as 'The Great Aussie Cossie' the company was founded in Sydney, Australia in 1928 on Bondo Beach by MacRae Knitting Mills. The original marketing slogan for the swimsuit was "Speedo on in your Speedos." The phrase was so popular that the company's name was permanently changed to SPEEDO. Inspired by the company's origins, the Speedo logo is called "boomerang" which is an Australian sporting icon.

9. **K-SWISS** K-Swiss was founded by two Swiss brothers who became avid tennis players after moving to Southern California. In 1966, they introduced the K-Swiss "Classic", the first all-leather tennis shoe with a one-piece rubber outsole, reinforced toe-design, five-stripe bands on each side, and D-Ring lacing system.

10. Established in 1911 in Biella, where the company is still located with R&D in Montebelluna, Fila has remained faithful to its Italian origins. Fila began life in the textiles business before going on to specialize in knitwear production. The company only entered the world of sports in 1973, after consolidating its expertise in the Italian textiles industry and assimilating the tradition of know-how that permeates it.

11. **YONEX** In 1946, Minoru Yoneyama founded Yoneyama Company, Ltd., a producer of wooden floats for fishing nets. His wood crafting business thrived until modern advancements - namely plastic floats - forced the company out of the float business. At this time, frustrated by being pushed aside by advanced technology, Yoneyama vowed never again to be left behind technologically. Thus, he began a commitment that eventually led to innovations in the world of golf, tennis, and badminton.

12. **DUNLOP** Named after the founder, J.B. Dunlop. In 1888, it started as a tire company named Pneumatic Tire & Booth. In 1910, J.B. Dunlop started making golf balls and in 1917, he started making tennis racquets. In 1959 he acquired Slazenger, and turned the company into what we now know as Dunlop Slazenger. acquired Slazenger, and turned the company into what we now know as Dunlop Slazenger.

Toby's Milestones

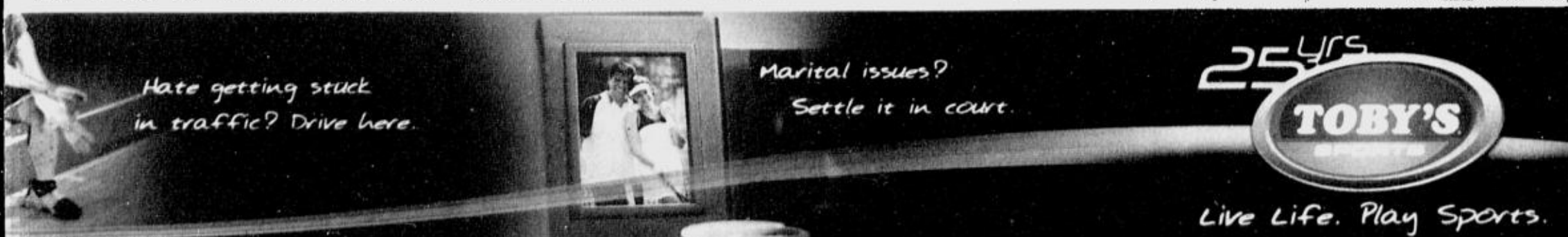
• **1998** Won "Outstanding Filipino Retailer" (Non-Fashion Category) by DTI and PRA

Sports Store of the Year (National Consumer Excellence Awards)

• **2001** One of the Top 10 Best Homegrown Franchises - Entrepreneur Magazine

• **2002** Best Sports Shop of the Year Awards

Sports Store of the Year Award (National Consumer Excellence Awards)



Celebrity Quotes

Celso L. Dayrit
President of the Philippine Olympic Committee

"Congratulations on your 25th anniversary!"

For several years now, Toby's Sports has provided sports and fitness enthusiasts in the country with their needs, serving as a one-stop-shop for the industry. It has provided a wide range of high quality, affordable and convenient products and services to the Filipino people.

I trust that your invaluable efforts in supporting sports and fitness in the country will greatly contribute to the development of sports and the national athletes in the Philippines. Through its Chairman, Mr. Roberto S. Claudio, Toby's Sports has been the leader in the sporting goods industry in the country.

Best wishes on your 25th year and More power!"

Pia Guanio
TV Host and Model

"My family has always been into sports. My brother plays basketball, my dad and I tennis. We used to go to the Toby's in Greenhills almost every Sunday! We've been going so long it's so amazing to see how big they've become. I even finally met Toby himself! Happy 25th Anniversary!"



Edu Manzano
Actor

"Congratulations to Toby's on their 25th Anniversary! For as long as I can remember we've been getting our sports gear from Toby's. They've always had the widest selection of sports merchandise and friendly and accommodating sales people. We have a lot of fun visiting their stores, especially the new Toby's Arena.

Our trips to the mall would never be complete without a visit to Toby's. That's why it will always be our Number 1 sports store! Congratulations and more power!"

Rich Alvarez
UAAP Basketball star and 2-time Most Valuable Player

"I was very impressed the first time I visited a Toby's Arena store. It's huge and has all the sports gear a guy could want. But what surprised me the most was that it had interactive attractions like the basketball 'Shootout'. It adds fun and excitement that you don't normally expect to find in a sports store



Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary!"

Toby's Sports Online

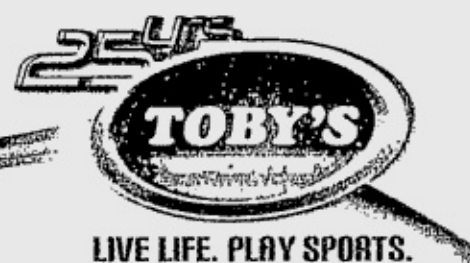
In any sport, the right equipment makes all the difference. It's no wonder then that sports buffs have a special relationship with their gear. But to know if that shoe, racquet, or billiard stick you're eyeing is the perfect one for you then you'll need to do some research. With so much to consider: size, weight, flex, cushioning, and of course price, buying new sports gear may be a daunting task. So if you really want to know before you buy then pay a visit to the online home of Toby's Sports at www.tobys.com. Toby's Sports Online, with its sleek and sporty design, has a searchable database of products from the world's best sports brands.

It contains detailed specs and pictures of the products featured to allow you to find the perfect piece of equipment for your sport and skill level. Apart from browsing through a wide selection of products, tobys.com offers the latest news and updates on in-store events and promos. Avid sports buffs can also subscribe to the Toby's e-newsletter and get weekly updates and special discounts, exclusively for subscribers. Sign-up to receive the e-Newsletter today.



SILVER FEVER SALE

The PASSION lives on...
In celebration of 25 years of sports,
we're having our biggest sale EVER.
Get UP to 50% OFF!
on selected items.
From Sept. 13 to Sept. 28 2003.



Per DTI-NCR permit no.3780. Series of 2003.

Toby's Sports Pass: Be part of the team

Do you think you have what it takes to join the Team? If you do then get your own Toby's Sportspass 'Scorecard'. The Sportspass is Toby's NEW Rewards Card that tracks all your Toby's purchases. Simply present your card everytime you purchase from any Toby's Sports or Toby's Arena branch Metro Manila to collect points. Your points can be converted into Toby's Gift Certificates plus FREE games at the famed Toby's Shootout or 'The Rock' indoor climbing wall

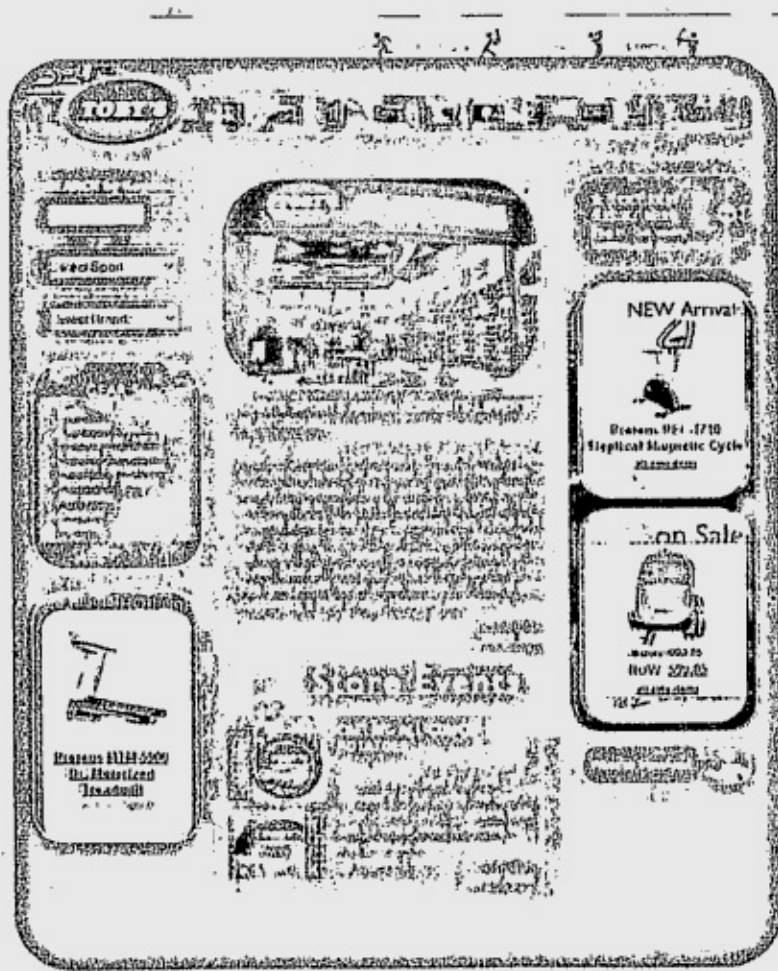
On top of that, Sportspass members get special access to exclusive benefits such as sales, exclusive offers, bigger discounts and free

promo items only for Sportspass members. Not to mention FREE trial access to our exclusive partners such as Gold's Gym.

Start scoring those points! Get your Toby's Sportspass 'Scorecard' today. Simply fill-up an application form at any Toby's Metro Manila branch and submit it together with a minimal processing fee and you get your card instantly. The more you score the more you win with your Toby's Sportspass. The New Toby's Sportspass will be available starting October 1, 2003. Please see posters and flyers for details.



Actual Sports Pass card.



SILVER FEVER RAFFLE

Catch the Fever with Toby's Silver Fever Raffle Promo!
Just bring this coupon to any Toby's Sports or Toby's Sports Arena outlet nationwide and get a chance to win 1 of these exciting prizes: (No purchase necessary)

1st prize- 1 winner of a P25,000 shopping spree

2nd prize- 25 winners of REEBOK Classic Royal (Men) or Alpha Check Junior Trainers (ladies/kids) worth P2,795



3rd prize- 25 winners of Eastpak IGNITION Backpacks worth P 1,600.00



4th prize- 25 winners of Michael Jordan Cologne (50mL) worth P1,499.00



5th prize- 25 winners of Eusebio Envelope 150 Sleeping Bags



6th prize- 25 winners of Adidas Shoe Bags



Just fill up this raffle coupon with complete information and drop at drop boxes located in any Toby's Sports outlet.
Deadline for submission of raffle stubs: September 28, 2003
Raffle draw to be held on Monday, October 6, 2003 at Toby's Main Office 143 Pasig Blvd. Pasig City
Disqualified to join the promotion are employees and their relatives of up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity of Toby's, Bighead Corporation, Motivator.
Winners will be notified through registered mail.
A participant can only win once. If a name wins more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.
Prizes not claimed within 60 days after notification shall be forfeited.
Prizes should be claimed at Toby's Main Office, 143 Pasig Blvd. Pasig City during office hours (Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12 PM & 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM). For Provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the Toby's outlet nearest you.

Over P300,000 worth of prizes to be given away!

Silver Fever Raffle Stub

What's the first thing you ever bought at Toby's?

Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Tel No: _____

Mobile No: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

☐ Would you like to receive Store Updates & Special offers via Email?

☐ Would you like to receive Store Updates & Special offers via Text?

CONTACT US:

Toby's Sports
P.O. Box 12406
Ortigas Post Office
Pasig City, Metro Manila

TSF Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 241
Greenhills Post Office 3111
San Juan, Metro Manila

Toby's Group of Companies
Main Office:
143 Pasig Boulevard
Pasig City

Telephone numbers:
Connecting all departments:
671-9768 to 69
Merchandising department:
671-5051 & 671-2113
Human Resources department:
671-9767
Fax number: 671-2124 & 671-1566

RP tankers scoop 9 more golds

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippines landed nine more gold medals in Day Two and firmed up its hold on the lead despite a pursuit by Singapore in the Southeast Asian Age-Group swimming championships yesterday at the San Pablo City Swimming Center.

Two record-breaking performances by Bonus Bordado and Lambert Guiriba fortified the RP bid of clinching the overall championship while Marichi Gandiongco and Luica Dacanay displayed their winning forms anew in the annual international event.

Overall, the Philippines produced nine golds, nine silvers and 13 bronzes in Day Two to lead in the medal tally.

The Philippines has a two-day aggregate of 18

Medal tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B
Philippines	18	21	20
Singapore	18	13	17
Malaysia	9	8	7
Thailand	8	10	12
Vietnam	6	9	5
Indonesia	5	3	2
Myanmar	0	0	1
Brunei	0	0	0

bar Nasution in 1997.

It was the first gold medal finish by Bordado, who may get a possible slot in the national team after posting a record-breaker in this eight-team field.

Like Bordado, Guiriba also dished off a record-

golds, 21 silvers and 20 bronzes.

Bordado, a 14-year-old high school student from Ateneo de Naga, splashed his way to a record time of 1:06.89 in the boys 13-14, 100m breaststroke, shattering the old mark set by Moho Ak-

breaking feat in the boys 15-17 50m butterfly.

Guiriba, son of swimming official Rolando Guiriba, dashed his way to a record time of 26.32, erasing the old record posted by Ng Cheng Xun of Singapore last year.

The nine-gold haul by the Philippines includes victories by Gandiongco and Dacanay, who, after Day Two, emerged as the most bemedalled swimmers with five golds apiece.

Gandiongco, a consistent holder of several Philippine National Age-Group records in the girls 11-12 years old, won two more golds yesterday. She won three at the end of Day One.

Gandiongco's successful swims yesterday came in the girls 13-14, 200m freestyle and girls 400m individual medley.

EURO CAGING

Gasol stars as Spain gains semis

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Pau Gasol scored 14 straight points in the fourth quarter as Spain beat Israel, 78-64, in the European Championship quarterfinals on Thursday.

Spain, chasing its first European title, will on Saturday play Italy, which edged Greece, 62-59, in their quarterfinal. In the other semifinal, France faces Lithuania.

Derrick Sharp's 3-pointer midway through the last quarter cut Spain's lead to 61-57, and sparked Gasol's points charge. Held to eight points in the first half, Gasol finished with 25.

"It's difficult to play against Israel because they fight and fight, can shoot 3-pointers and penetrate," said Gasol, the tournament's leading scorer.

Jorge Garbajosa was the only other Spanish scorer in double figures, with 13.

Matteo Soragna gave Italy the lead for good at 54-52 against Greece on a layup after a fast break early in the fourth quarter.

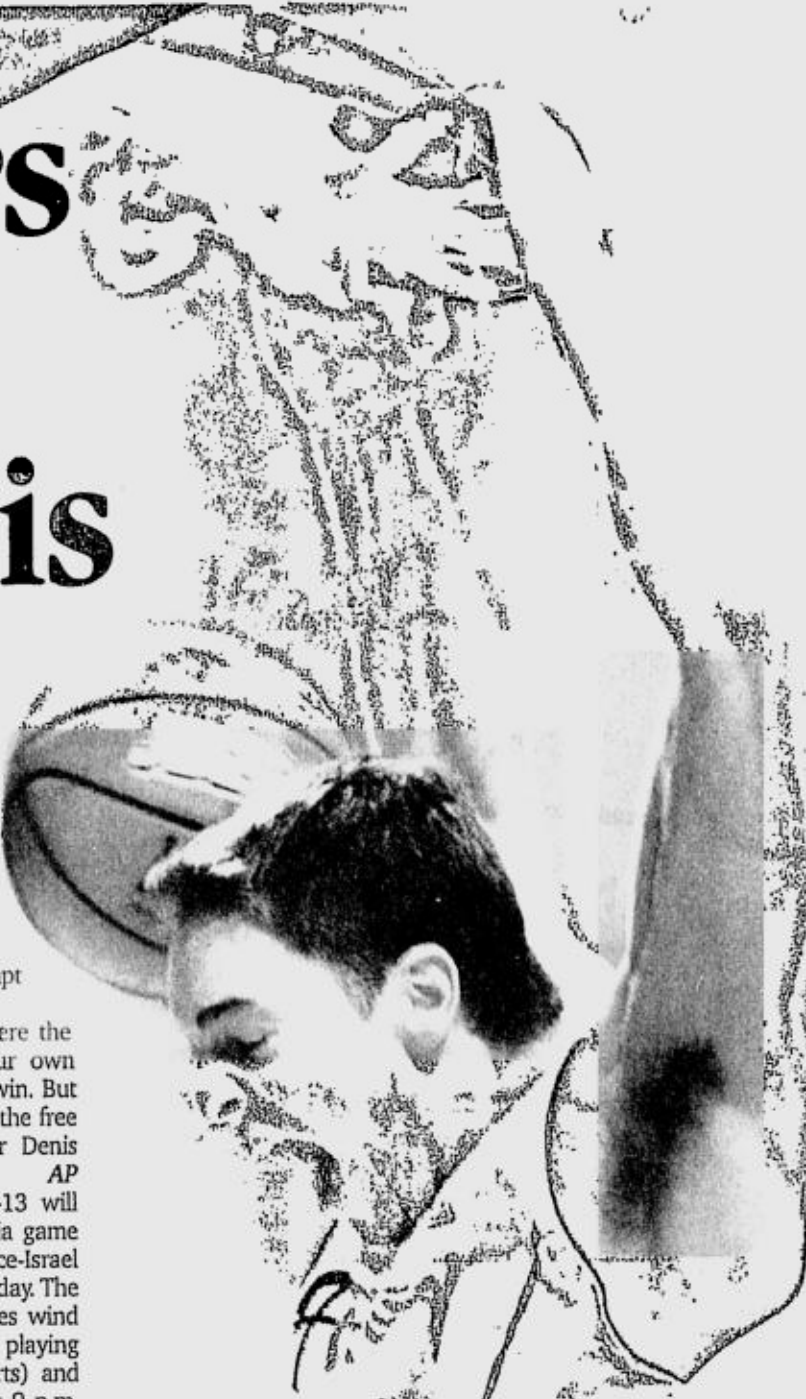
Trailing 60-56, Dimosthenis Ntikioudis gave Greece hope when he hit a

3-pointer with seven seconds left. But Soragna then made two free throws.

Trying to force overtime, Demetrio Papanikolaou badly missed a 3-point attempt with just over a second left.

"The two last minutes were the longest, one mistake of our own could have given them the win. But then we had to take care of the free throws," said Italian player Denis Marconato.

AP
Solar Sports and IBC-13 will telecast the Russia-Yugoslavia game at 9:14 p.m., and the Greece-Israel match at 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. today. The tournament's semifinal stages wind down on Sunday with Spain playing Italy at 7 p.m. (Solar Sports) and France battling Lithuania at 9 p.m. (Solar Sports and IBC-13.)



GASOL unloads a dunk against Israel.

REUTERS

Pacquiao must surpass himself

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

NO need to ask Manny Pacquiao how he regards his next fight in the United States against pound-for-pound great Marco Antonio Barrera.

If Pacquiao, who is certain to enter the ring an underdog, wins, he'd hit the jackpot and instantly feel like the greatest boxer in the world.

Frankly speaking, the reigning IBF superbantam king yesterday

said his upcoming 12-round mega duel against Barrera is "the defining fight of his career."

The southpaw Pacquiao (37-2-1, 29 KOs) trades leather with Barrera (57-3, 40 KOs) on Nov. 15 either in San Antonio or Las Vegas. The Filipino ring icon duked it out with his Mexican counterpart in the 126-lb featherweight limit.

Pacquiao, at 23, could enjoy a slight edge in power and speed over Barrera, who at 29 has had to shift

from a ferocious slugging style to a slower, more calculating game.

But, based on their overall worth, and considering the quality of their opponents in the run-up to the Nov. 15 yours-or-mine bout, it goes without saying that Pacquiao will have to surpass himself in order to vanquish Barrera.

Barrera is not only strong, sharp and wily, he has also shown the enviable ability to adjust to the tempo and tempo of the fight to his great

advantage.

Although no title is at stake, the winner will be universally recognized as the "People's Champion" and pound-for-pound best in the featherweight class.

The fight with Barrera will earn for Pacquiao a whopping \$350,000—the biggest purse so far received by a Filipino boxer. Barrera gets a rematch should Pacquiao win the bout. If Pacquiao loses, no rematch will be mandated.

De La Hoya to retire if Mosley beats him again

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De La Hoya isn't ready to wind down his career just yet. Retirement is being pushed back once again, unless Shane Mosley's fists convince him otherwise.

De La Hoya enters the ring Saturday looking to avenge one of only two losses that mar an otherwise remarkable career when he defends his 154-pound titles against a fighter who has beaten him both as an amateur and a professional.

Beating Mosley will allow De La Hoya to check off another item on his list of must-dos before he finally calls it a career.

Losing to Mosley is so unthinkable that De La Hoya is ready to retire if it happens again.

"I've trained so hard for this fight, like never before," De La Hoya said. "If I lost the way I am now, what's the motivation? Why am I in the sport? Yes, I will retire if I lose."

De La Hoya doesn't see that happening, of course, in a fight that is more about revenge than adding another \$15 million or so to his already fat bank account.

Mosley used his speed to outpunch De La Hoya and win a split decision at 147 pounds three years ago, but De La Hoya is coming off a huge knockout over Fernando Vargas in his last major fight and is brimming with newfound confidence.

"I don't want to retire," De La Hoya said. "I want to keep on fighting and fighting hard."

Odds makers figure De La Hoya will still be around after Saturday night's scheduled 12-round fight at the MGM Grand hotel arena. He's a 2-1 favorite to retain his WBC and WBA titles in a fight that has long since been a sell-out and is expected to do big numbers on pay-per-view television.

AP



SERBIA and Montenegro's R. D. Alexandre Borderieux hangs on upside down to China's Xu Zhiming in their World Judo Championships match in Osaka. Borderieux won.

AP

Cycling election set Sunday 41 early birds in Fil-Am golf

ALL is set for the tomorrow's election of Philippine Amateur Cycling Association (PACA) at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City despite an earlier move for the exercise to be held in February.

Expected to oversee the election is Dato Seri Darshan Singh, Malaysian president of the Asian Cycling Federation. Darshan has reportedly authorized the PACA election during the ACF meeting in Korea last

month.

Incumbent PACA president Ponciano Regalado Jr., who had opposed the election, pushed for the poll to be held in February but was overruled by the board which maintained that tomorrow's exercise was prescribed in the association's constitution.

Contesting the presidency is sportsman Bert Lina, chair of Air21 which bankrolled the return of the Tour Pilipinas.

BAGUIO CITY—Forty-one teams, including a dozen foreign squads, have registered for the 54th Fil-Am Golf Invitational championship set in December at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay.

Defending champion Manila Southwoods and Chicago Golf Club led the early registrants in the annual event.

Tournament organizers said

only 60 teams consisting of five players with two alternates will be accepted to compete. Each club is invited to send one "Fil" and "Am" teams.

Deadline for submission of invited entries with tournament fees in full is set Sept. 16. After the deadline, acceptance of teams on the waiting list shall be subject to the approval of the Fil-Am Committee.

SPORTSWATCH

Minoza outshoots Mickelson

FRANKIE Minoza shot a second straight one-under-par 71 yesterday to share 10th place with Jumbo Ozaki and three others in the Suntory Open at the Sobu Country Club in Chiba, Japan. Minoza's 142 aggregate left him seven shots off the pace set by Hiroyuki Fujita, who carded a 66 for a one-shot lead on compatriot Masayuki Kawamura. But Minoza was far ahead of Phil Mickelson, who took a triple-bogey on the 18th for a 75 that put him in 59th spot at 146.

San Beda completes semis

REIGNING titlist San Beda routed Lourdes School (Mandaluyong), 80-57, recently to finalize the Passerelle semifinal cast in the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Xavier School courts. With their sixth straight wins, the Bedans led idle Ateneo, University of Santo Tomas and La Salle Greenhills into the semis. Ateneo whipped Lourdes School (QC), 92-25, while Xavier School beat Notre Dame of Greater Manila, 57-37, to complete the SBP semifinal field. The other semifinalists are defending champion La Salle Greenhills and De La Salle Zobel.

Table tennis tilt tomorrow

AROUND 700 players vie for slots in the first LG Table Tennis age-group invitational championships starting tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Hostilities begin at 8 a.m. with aspirants from 10 to more than 60 years old expected to display their wares in the biggest gathering of table tennis talents vying for slots into the tournament proper of 17 age-group divisions. Events on tap are the boys, girls, men's and ladies singles with the organizing Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) and IMG and the sponsoring LG electronics confident of discovering fresh talents for future national teams.

8 RP pugs bound for China

EIGHT Filipino boxers will leave on Monday to represent the Philippines in the 2003 Xinjiang China International Boxing Open. Violito Payla, a gifted southpaw from Cagayan de Oro, will lead the charge of the RP Revicon team in the event which is also expected to draw entries from Asian heavyweights like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Thailand. It will be the first time that the Philippines will see action in the event scheduled Sept. 17 to 21. "Our boys will be in for a tough fight in this tournament. *Mapapalaban sila dito*," said amateur boxing president Manny Lopez. Aside from Payla (51 kg), who has won gold medals in Cuba, Greece and Finland in the last three years, the other boxers are Lhyven Salazar (48), Ferdie Gamu (54), Roel Laguna (57), Anthony Gusquiza (60), Florencio Ferrer (64), Francis Joven (69) and Maroon Goles (75). Pat Gaspi will serve as head coach.

Carapiet notches 1st victory

ROSARIO, Batangas—Edgesports' Ivan Carapiet edged arch-rival Malco Angeles of Primus Racedevils Thursday in the seventh leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. It was the first win for the 16-year-old Carapiet after ending up as bridesmaid in the Light class in the past legs. Carapiet moved up to second overall behind Blake Go of Team Cebu-CRG-Demvels in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastway Racing. He clocked 27:45.766, a mere 4.819 seconds ahead of Angeles. Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing checked in 10:858 seconds behind to claim third place.

La Salle Greenhills rules golfest

LA Salle Greenhills banked on Jan Michael Yee's sterling performance to clinch high school team honors in the recent 2003 PJGF Inter-School Junior Golf Championships held in three golf courses. Yee flogged the Tagaytay Highlands with a 53, the Philippine Navy course with another 53 and the Canlubang layout with a 51 for a 157 total that earned him the individual title in the event jointly staged by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation and the Philippine Junior Development Association. His effort, along with Martin Mediana's 39-47-44, Ian Ray Intal's 47-49-42, and Marco Olives' 41-45-41, helped LSGH to the high school team crown and the four round-trip tickets to Hong Kong courtesy of Cebu Pacific. Colegio San Agustin took runner-up honors. In the grade school division, Ateneo de Manila dominated behind Moshe Baldo (29-34-29), Carlo Legaspi (27-35-30) and Joseph Aranas (27-27-29) followed by La Salle Greenhills. Carlo Legaspi, also of Ateneo, scored 27-35-30 to bring home the individual trophy.

Reality combat at NBC Tent

FIFTEEN bouts, a kickboxing tournament and a stick-fighting exhibition will highlight the 3rd Universal Reality Combat Championship on Sept. 20 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Dubbed "Siege at the Fort," the tournament will feature the bouts between Jonard Junio, an expert in Muay Thai, and Rommel Dells, a Way of the Champion master, and Dare Malecda (wushu) and Giovanni Escobier (boxing). The main event will pit Richie Lazaro, co-founder of Pasukuang Labanan, against Fritz Rodriguez, the first Filipino to compete in the Mundials World Championship in Brazil. Both are undefeated in mixed martial arts competitions. Tickets are available at the Alabang Auto Exchange at Upper Deck 1 Parking Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa (tel. 560-2176 or 560-2273) and at Fitness Advantage/Red Corner at Festival Mall, Fillinvest, Alabang (tel. 771-0199). For inquiries and ticket reservations, call the Red Corner Gym at 867-8059.

Mapua booters draw UE

CASPER Ngo, the youngest "license-B" head coach in the local football scene today, led his Mapua Tech squad to a 2-2 draw with UAAP champion University of the East recently at the Espana pitch. Goals by Leo Dugal and Michael Tan in the last 15 minutes gave Mapua its first point in the "Ang Liga" table. Their efforts matched UE's earlier goals by Alvin Valeroso (8th minute) and Ryan Marinay on a 65th minute penalty off a foul by defender Marton Pangindian. UE head coach Lloyd Lim said: "It was a shameful performance by my team."

5-stag derby stakes P1.2 million

A GUARANTEED pot of P1.2 million is up for grabs in the Rolligon Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby of top promoter Rolly Ligon on Sept. 16, 18 and 20. The recent "RAY showdown 7-Stag Derby" produced a lone champion out of 84 entries, the Freshwater bet of Gene Garcia and Erwin Diamante of Illoilo, according to promoters Danny Ty and Romero Yu. Meanwhile, all stags banded for the Showdown derby may also be fielded in the Stag Festival. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

NCA derby slated at Araneta

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association presents the NCA 7-Stag Derby on Monday and Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum. The powerhouse team of Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Jiao and John Capinpin is hosting this event, second of the five-leg NCA stag derby series. Interested parties may contact 911-3101 or 911-2928.



AVIA USA 10K RUN

Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho shakes hand with Janet Chua, Avia sales manager, after their contract signing for the management of the Avia USA 10K run on Oct. 12 at the CCP. At left is Rell de Leon, Avia marketing consultant.

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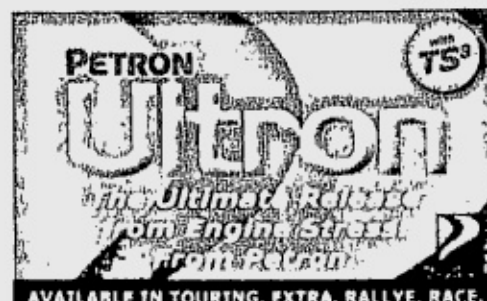
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SM Cebu LGF, Atrium A
SM Iloilo LGF, East Wing in front of Afionado Kiosk
SM Cagayan De Oro G/F, between Gloriana and Guess
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BUSINESS

Napocor files bid to increase rates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission a petition seeking power rate increases under the generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram) to recover adjustments in the cost of producing electricity between February and May.

Napocor wants to jack up its rates by 50 centavos per kilowatt-hour in Luzon, 40 centavos in the Visayas and P1.77 in Mindanao. These would change Napocor's selling rate from P2.13 per kWh to P2.63 in Luzon, P2.24 per kWh to P2.63 in the Visayas and P1.02 per kWh to P2.80 in Mindanao.

The Gram replaced Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment or PPCA, which was passed on by distribution utilities to end-consumers as the controversial PPA (purchased power adjustment).

Under the guidelines governing Gram, power companies can ask the ERC's go-ahead for power rate adjustments whenever there are fluctuations in generation costs during a period of three months.

The petition filed with the ERC yesterday was Napocor's second under Gram.

In May, the ERC ordered the company to reduce its rates for Luzon by 7 centavos per kWh, and increase the rate for the Visayas by 16 centavos while Mindanao rates were kept unchanged.

Napocor officials had said that the ERC order in May fell short of Napocor's desired adjustments, which were supposed to bring then existing rates at break-even levels.

They said the generation rates approved by the ERC in May would barely reduce the power company's projected net loss of P113 billion this year.

"The rates approved were not enough to mitigate Napocor's financial bleeding," they added.

Back then, Napocor's losses were seen to reach as much as

P100 billion. The adjusted rates were expected to cut the projected losses by only P20 billion.

In a related development, an energy official said in July that electricity consumers had to accept the need to pay more lest they face the more expensive problem of a power crisis.

The options in the next few months will be to either pay slightly higher electricity prices or to have no electricity at all, the official said.

"We are trying to tell people that electricity is not cheap and it is not free, and if we want it 24 hours a day, somebody has to come up with the investment and somebody has to pay for that," he added.

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.99 = \$1

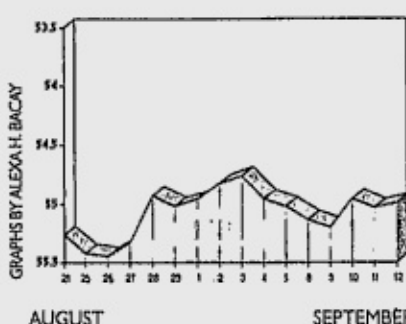
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2003

Y 117.06 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2003

GOLD: \$380.50-381.00

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower on large cap sell-off

SHARES fell for the third straight day on Friday, driven down by profit-taking as investors continued to cash in gains from a rally earlier in the week, traders said.

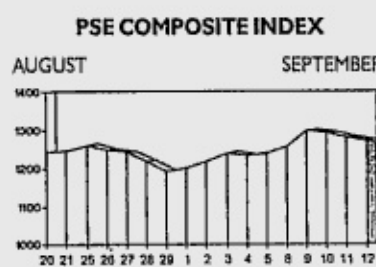
"We went up a bit too fast at the start of the week so it was expected that some investors would want to lock in gains," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

Large caps, which had helped lead the market's upward charge were the main casualties of the sell-off, although the country's biggest telecom firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) bucked the trend on reports of continued robust mobile subscriber growth in July and August.

The main composite index fell 9.01 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,272.99 points on thin turnover of P324.7 million, little changed from Thursday's P371.98 million. For the week, the market was up 2.6 percent.

Plana said that barring any negative surprises over the weekend, the market may start to retrace lost ground next week.

"It might be that we have seen the end of the selling for now so we might see the market possibly retesting 1,300 points again next week."



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS/B2

Gov't readies crackdown on phone service centers

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has ordered the National Telecommunications Commission to work closely with police authorities in cracking down on cellular phone service centers that sell and "unblock" phones that have been reported stolen.

Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement yesterday that there had been numerous complaints about the proliferation of mobile phone service centers that could "unblock" stolen units and even sell them at good prices.

"For as long as there are stores and repair shops that cater to the purchase of stolen cell phones, there will always be people who rob others of their cell phones, not for their personal use, but to make money out of the sale," he said.

Mendoza said the NTC needed to closely coordinate with the Philippine National Police in going after these mobile phone stores and repair shops to curb rampant snatching of cell phones.

He also directed Communications Assistant Secretary Robert Castañares to look into reports that there were some DOTC and NTC personnel that were involved in the illegal activity.

Instead of helping prevent thieves from cashing in on stolen mobile phones, he said these employees were reportedly helping syndicates engaged in the sale of stolen handsets by facilitating the unblocking of units that had been reported to the DOTC or the NTC.

As the regulatory body for the telecommunications industry, the NTC orders cellular service providers to "block" from their networks mobile phones that have been proven stolen.

This technology makes stolen cellular phones useless to the thieves or to the people who want to buy them as the handsets will no longer work in any service provider's network.

Foreign direct investments plummet 73%

FOREIGN direct investments (FDIs) in the Philippines fell sharply in the second quarter from the same period a year ago as concerns about the deadly SARS virus and the Iraq crisis kept investors at bay, a government agency said yesterday.

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) said in a statement that approved FDIs registered with the country's investment promotion agencies reached P7.1 billion (\$129 million) in the April-June period, 73 percent below last year's P26.3 billion.

"The decline was exacerbated by the effects of the Iraq crisis as well as the SARS outbreak, which were strongly felt during the first half of the year," the agency said.

Japan and the United States topped the list of investors, with P3.2 billion and P2.8 billion worth of funds committed.

Reuters

Hit the floor.



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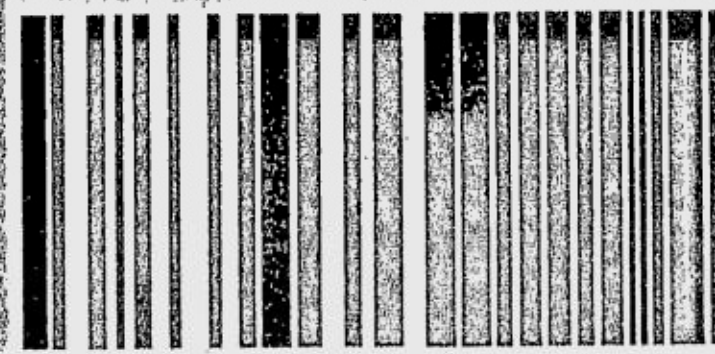
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BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

hand movements of a circus mime. Forgive me for this, but it is all in the mime!

ANYWAY, if nothing is really wrong, Gloriaetta should go ahead with her trips. We do not take her official foreign trips against her even if she is spending our tax money.

Precisely, she must promote foreign investments in this country. It is the only way to change our minds regarding the exchange rate. She must get the dollar investments.

Defeatist or not, everybody already thinks that the value of the peso is bound to decline soon or sooner. As they say in the market, it is a self-fulfilling prophecy.

And such a thinking, sadly, has a basis. We are simply not earning enough dollars. We don't have much from export.

And so we export a lot of peo-

ple, some eight million of them, in fact. Plus human organs, whether detached (for transplant) or still attached (for the x-rated).

REPORTS are again highlighting the rising debts of the government. It seems, based on the reports, the blame rests entirely on this cute administration.

To be fair, a good part of the blame goes to previous administrations. This cute administration merely inherited public finances that were in complete disarray.

In truth, a good part of the dollar borrowings of this cute administration goes to payment of the debts of previous administrations.

But then the politicians are blaming it on Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, as if he mismanaged the entire government all these years. Single-handedly!

THAT'S not easy to do, even for somebody as good as the Whiz.

Whether the politicians like it or not, the Whiz is only forced to borrow abroad to cover for our maturing debts. It is also one

good way to calm down the forex market.

Partly because of our political trouble, however, the Whiz is finding the interest rates on our dollar borrowings to be quite prohibitive nowadays.

And so he refuses to borrow for now, which the forex market sees as a sign from the circus mime about a forthcoming dollar shortage.

Thus, the Bangko Sentral is forced to go to the market to issue some \$500 million worth of debt papers. It helps calm down the market. For now!

STILL, something bad is happening. With our mind already set on a peso devaluation, in the first place, it does not help that exports are not doing well.

At least they are not doing as well as this cute administration expected. For the whole year, you see, government economists dream of an 8-percent growth in exports.

Now take a look at reality. From January to July, exports actually grew by an amazing one-half percent. See, not even 1 percent!

Last July, according to reality, exports even dropped by 8 percent. That's a negative. Exports not only did not grow, they even shrank.

Thus, to make the dream of government economists come true, exports must grow by more than 10 percent for the rest of the year. Tall order for Gloriaetta! Oops!

At the same time, we hardly get any investments from abroad. With shrinking exports, investments should help us cover our dollar payment.

Here is the bad news—portfolio investments, which go into stocks and government IOUs, took a big dive last month, thanks to the coup attempt.

As for direct investments, or those which go into factories and offices, not to mention the nightclubs in Makati City and Quezon City, we are getting zero.

In business, they already concede that direct investments can probably come, and only probably, after the elections in 2004. That's eight more months!

Whose job is it to promote exports and investments, anyway?

YESTERDAY could be a fluke. Even if yesterday was the last working day of the week, the peso's exchange rate against the dollar was stable.

That never happened in the previous weeks. The peso always weakened a great deal the past few Fridays, or right before the weekend.

But yesterday, all our political and economic troubles seemed so far away, and so the forex market heard no rumor whatsoever about any coup d'etat.

The tattletale champions of this cute administration of Gloriaetta did not talk about, well, what they menacingly refer to as "destabilization plot."

THERE was nothing to spook the foreign exchange market yesterday, except of course for a minor, petty, insignificant detail.

And that is, the weakness of the peso is not just all in the mind. We have a real problem. We must deal with an honest-to-goodness dollar shortfall.

FOR the first time on a Friday in recent memory, the forex market yesterday took a much-

needed rest. It did not get conflicting signals from this cute administration.

Everybody knows why the exchange rate goes crazy. In the first place, we already have a forex shortfall. We don't receive enough dollars from abroad for all our needs.

Add to that all the bad news in politics about coup d'etat and destabilization, and your forex market can only become a basement case.

ON the one hand, you see, we have some wise guys in the military saying the danger of another coup attempt is definitely over.

Gloriaetta, on the other hand, cuts her official trip to Brunei by one day. Not only that, she cancels her Middle East trip entirely. In short, bad body language! For in this kind of market, (i.e. extremely nervous), people can only interpret Gloriaetta's body language as a warning signal—i.e. something must be wrong.

Nobody can help it. Anxious and all, the market even resorts to reading the future in the

Stocks end lower. . .

From page B1

He added that a resurgence in global equity interest and up beat sentiment among foreign players on leading Philippine companies after good first half results meant that the market's prospects remained positive.

"The general feeling is still quite upbeat for the second half of the year for equities, with a better global outlook. Foreign participation will remain crucial."

Plana estimated that foreign players on average contribute around 60

to 65 percent of total daily trades.

Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas was more bearish, projecting further weakness in the latter part of September and into October.

"October is known as a major crash month and I am not going to discount the possibility of one this year, especially for the US," Roxas said.

Equities markets around the world were badly hit by a major sell-off in October 1987 and investors are often jittery around the anniversary date. Reuters

SHORT-LIVED RECOVERY

Peso strengthens to 54.99 to \$1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO crossed back to the 54:\$1 level yesterday and closed at 54.99 from 55.03 last Thursday as the financial market continued to digest the strong signals sent by the central bank early this week when it restricted the sale of dollars to local investors.

Traders, however, expected the peso's strengthening to be short-lived as demand for dollars was seen to climb anew next week when companies and importers scramble for the greenback to pay loans and purchases.

Since Wednesday, investors have been taking profit on the dollar although lingering uncer-

tainties kept the peso fluctuating between the high 54 and the low 55 levels.

The peso opened at 55.12 to a dollar yesterday and slipped to 55.15. Turnover was a modest \$55.026 million.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso should close the year at 54 to \$1. He said the recovery should continue provided there would be no "additional surprises."

The BSP issued recently a circular prohibiting the purchases of dollars from the spot market to buy dollar-denominated bonds in a bid to ease the pressure on the local currency.

Buenaventura said the circular was issued following a request of a

bank that wanted to make sure that it would not violate a BSP regulation if it sold dollars to a local investor to finance the purchase of a dollar-denominated debt paper.

Some market players took the move as a form of capital control but most welcomed the signal that the central bank was in control and could impose stronger measures to protect the local currency if necessary.

Buenaventura stressed that the BSP had no intention of imposing capital controls.

A trader from a foreign bank said the peso could sink back to 55.30 to \$1 in the coming weeks.

"Now is actually a good time to buy dollars for those with short-term requirement," said the trader from a local bank.

Banks' credit card loans down 2.37% in 1st half

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDIT card receivables of banks and credit card companies declined by 2.37 percent in the first half to P49.54 billion from P50.74 billion a year ago, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

In the same period, the growth in the banks' auto loans slowed down as consumers got confused over the government's policy on excise taxes.

Soured credit card loans remained high at 24.65 percent of the total credit card receivables as of June. This, however, was an improvement from 25.35 percent in the previous quarter and 26.08 percent a year ago.

The latest data from the central bank showed that banks and other institutions engaged in the credit card business continued to sustain piles of non-performing loans.

The consolidated receivables of the industry rose 3.02 percent in the second quarter to P49.53 billion, from P48.08 billion in the first three months.

The ratio of soured credit card loans to the total receivables from this business was more than 10 points higher than the ratio of the commercial banking industry's non performing loans to its total loans of 15.19 percent as of June.

A BSP official said that at the most, the past due credit card loans should be

comparable to the banking sector's NPL to total loan portfolio ratio.

There are 16 commercial banks, six credit card subsidiaries and 11 thrift banks engaged in the credit card business.

The banks' exposure to auto loans rose 10.5 percent to P44.6 billion in the first half from P40.3 billion a year ago.

Against the previous three-month period, car loans went up 1.9 percent from P43.8 billion in the second quarter. The growth in car loans slowed down from the previous rate of more than 20 percent.

Past due auto loans as of June increased by 18.9 percent to P2.9 billion, from P2.4 bil-

lion a year ago and higher by 5.8 percent than the P2.7 billion in the previous quarter.

Foreign commercial banks remained the biggest players in the credit card business, accounting for 71.9 percent of the total receivables while local players accounted for 28.1 percent.

A central bank official noted that proper credit investigation was still the key to prudent banking operations.

Last year, monetary authorities ordered banks to tighten the screening procedure for credit card applicants after it noticed a rising trend in past due loans.

The central bank also cautioned credit card companies against the imposition of exorbitant rates. Credit card providers, for their part, assured the BSP that studies were being done to bring down the interest rates.

Credit card companies charge card holders about 3.25 percent monthly or about 40 percent per year.

The BSP believed that credit card rates were made too high to cover for delinquent accounts.

Monetary authorities are studying the Thailand model where the credit card interest rate was capped to no more than 18 percent a year.

New auto tax computation opposed

By Michelle V. Remo

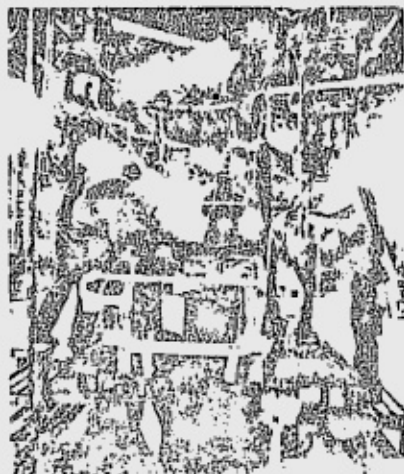
DESPITE the passage of the auto excise tax law, which was expected to quell protests against an "inequitable" tax system, unrest remains in the local automotive industry.

This time, industry members are concerned over certain provisions in the new law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR), which they deemed "problematic."

In a public consultation yesterday on the new auto excise tax law's IRR, car manufacturers were one in opposing Section 5 of the said IRR.

This section of the IRR states that a vehicle's net manufacturer's price, which is the basis for the computation of the amount of excise tax to be imposed, should always include the prices of air conditioner, radio, mag wheels and the cost of installation of these accessories, whether or not they are actually installed.

Industry members said this provision was unfair. They said the costs of accessories should not be included in the computation of the net manufacturer's price when they were not actually installed. They ex-



TAX issues still worry local car assembly industry.

plained that there were still quite a number of vehicles sold without radio, air conditioner and mag wheels.

"Let us not tax something that is not there because that is unfair. Prices of accessories should only be included in the computation of the net manufacturer's price if they are indeed installed in a vehicle," said Vicente Mills Jr., president of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc.

Internal Revenue Assistant Com-

missioner Estelita Aguirre explained that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had decided to include the cost of basic car accessories in the computation to prevent abuse. She said the BIR had encountered cases where manufacturers would declare a vehicle bare (without air conditioner and other accessories) to avoid paying higher excise taxes, when in fact they would install the accessories later.

Frank Nacua, chair of the Truck Manufacturers Association Inc., suggested that the Department of Finance and the BIR rephrase the debated line in Section 5. A representative of Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. said the government should instead include prices of accessories in the net manufacturer's price "when-ever applicable."

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan, however, urged industry members to raise their disagreement over the provision later and allow the government and industry players to first focus on finishing the final draft of the IRR to beat the Oct. 1 deadline.

Also, industry members are seeking the broadening of the vehicles classified "special purpose" which will continue to enjoy exemption from payment of excise tax.

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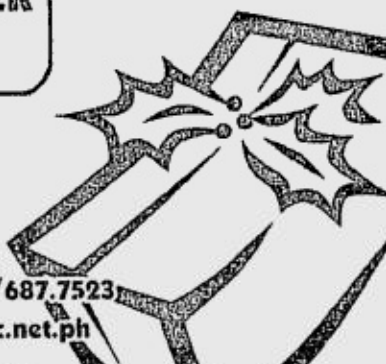
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

SARS: comeback or lab accident?

SINGAPORE—Is SARS, the deadly flu-like disease, back? Is the world about to see a new epidemic or has Singapore just suffered a freak, isolated lab accident?

Health authorities are struggling with these questions.

Singapore, where the virus killed 33 people between March and May, said this week Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome has returned after two series of tests last Monday and Tuesday on a 27-year-old medical researcher turned up positive for the virus.

But the World Health Organization said the man lacked classic SARS symptoms. He does not have a lung infection, for example. He also has no breathing problems, and it is unclear how he caught it. The WHO refuses to classify the case as SARS.

"We are asking Singapore to help us understand that," said Peter Cordingley, WHO's spokesperson in the Western Pacific.

Debate over what exactly the man is suffering throws the spotlight on the difficulty of diagnosing SARS.



Difficulty of diagnosing SARS.

By the time the WHO had declared the global outbreak under control on July 5, SARS had infected nearly 8,500 people globally, killing more than 800, and costing

billions of dollars in lost business across Asia.

Singapore and the WHO, after working hand-in-glove during that outbreak, are now taking two very different

diagnostic routes.

Singapore conducted two rounds of polymerase chain reaction and serology tests. These amplify genetic material and are key diagnostic tools. But they have a small margin for error.

A study of Singapore's last SARS outbreak showed 5 percent of people with fever had tested positive but did not go on to develop the disease, said Dr. Balaji Sadasivan, Singapore's minister of state for health.

Further tests by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could clarify whether the new case is genuine.

Another question is how could SARS suddenly appear again on an island where nobody has suffered from the disease since May 11 and where it was deemed eliminated by the WHO on May 31.

Exposed to SARS virus?

The man, a postdoctoral student, had been studying the West Nile virus at the National University of Singapore, working in two labs, including one where live SARS virus samples were kept.

Sadasivan said the victim—who had no known contact with other SARS patients and had not traveled outside Sin-

gapore recently—probably caught SARS at that SARS lab. He had spent time there on Aug. 23, three days before he came down with fever.

The health ministry said on Wednesday it was still investigating how he became sick.

SARS spreads through droplets by sneezing or coughing and such direct infection can usually occur within a radius of about 1-2 meters, experts say.

It can survive outside the human body for three to six hours. Contact with any object that is tainted by droplets containing the virus, for example, a contaminated phone, could lead to infection if a person then touches his eyes, nose or mouth.

Medical experts warn the virus could reemerge during winter and some have criticized China for its recent lifting of a ban on the trade of civet cats. Scientists in Hong Kong said in May that SARS likely jumped to humans from the wild animal, a delicacy for centuries for many people in southern China.

One of these scientists, Guan Yi, said it was very difficult to stop the trade and consumption of civet cats and called for it to be regulated instead. **Reuters**

Heart-healthy corn to hit stores by 2007

WASHINGTON—A new breed of corn that mixes the conventional seed with a bright-blooming relative offers the promise of helping prevent clogged arteries and reducing harmful cholesterol.

Corn oil and other food products with this heart-healthy strain as an ingredient could appear on supermarket shelves in the world within four years. The breakthrough after 10 years of research could lead plant breeders to develop other healthy varieties such as popcorn and yellow sweet corn.

Scientists bred corn with Eastern gamma grass, a purple or orange-bloomed plant, and came up with a corn high in oleic fatty acid—a type of unsaturated fat that raises levels of good cholesterol to prevent arteries from clogging.

Oleic acid also lowers the bad cholesterol that damages the heart.

Healthy fat

Susan Duvick, a plant biologist at the US Agriculture Department who led the project, said conventional corn contains about 20 percent oleic acid and 60 percent polyunsaturated fat, which is considered healthy by nutritionists although not as beneficial as oleic. Conventional corn also has 10 percent of the harmful saturated fat.

The new corn lines contain less polyunsaturated fat—just 20 percent—while the oleic acid content climbs to 70 percent, said Duvick, who works in the department's Agricultural Research Service. The new breed still contains 10 percent saturated fat.

Duvick worked on the corn lines with Linda Pollak, a geneticist at the department, and Pamela White, an Iowa State University food scientist.

Similar flavor

White said she expects the flavor from the new corn to be similar to conventional corn oil, which is bland. Also, corn with high oleic acid will have a longer shelf life than conventional corn oil, she said.

Refiners make corn oil by soaking corn in hot water for 40 hours to break down the starch and protein. It is ground to separate the corn germ—an oval-shaped nub in the kernel—from which oil is extracted.

The residue is saved for making animal feed. The oil is sold to food processors to use as an ingredient for other products or is sold as cooking oil.

Duvick said the team of scientists is waiting for a patent approval, expected next month. After that, seed companies can apply for a license to sell it to farmers, she said.

Noncontroversial breeding

Gene Grabowski, a food industry consultant, said the high oleic acid corn is a welcome development for food companies.

Controversy over genetically engineered foods makes companies nervous that consumers outside of the United States will reject their products, he said, so there is a push for seed and biotech industries to develop new crops through

traditional breeding.

"It just makes it easier for food companies to deal with these kinds of products because they don't raise any added concerns," said Grabowski.

Although Americans have been eating genetically engineered food for years, some consumers worry about their safety.

The European Union plans to require labels on food made with genetically engineered ingredients. This means any goods made with biotech corn and soybeans would have to be marked. Processors argue this will turn off consumers.

Food processors also are interested in healthful ingredients that can provide benefits for weight-conscious consumers.

Seed companies excited

Courtney Chabot Dreyer, a spokesperson for the nation's largest seed company, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., said the firm is eager to examine the new corn.

She noted that many plants have been genetically engineered to help farmers reduce the use of pesticides or to fend off bugs but few offer consumers added health benefits.

She said Pioneer is working to change that by developing its own variety of corn that contains high oleic acid.

Monsanto Co., another large seed and biotech company, is testing a traditionally bred soybean with a reduced percentage of harmful fats, a company spokesperson said. **AP**

Dutch pharmacies now sell cannabis

THE HAGUE—The Netherlands, already known as a haven for soft drug use, marked a new world first last week with residents now able to obtain cannabis on medical prescription from the local pharmacy.

The health ministry's Office for Medical Cannabis set the wheels in motion for pharmacy sales of the plant, shown in numerous studies to be effective in reducing nausea and pain, notably among terminally or gravely ill patients.

"There is no scientific proof that it works," said a health ministry spokesperson. "But repeated use indicates that an effect does exist."

Two types of cannabis—one that can either be inhaled in a steam treatment and one that is infused in water and drunk like tea—went on sale last Sept. 2 for 40 and 55 euros (\$44 and \$60) for five grams.

Unlike recreational users of marijuana, patients with prescriptions will be strongly discouraged from smoking the product—which like cigarette smoking would have damaging health effects.

"This cannabis is not for just anyone," said Caroline De Roos, spokesperson for a pharmacists' association.

Medicinal benefits

Cannabis is claimed to be effective in reducing nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy, of reducing tension in glaucoma patients and in improving the appetite of those suffering from HIV and AIDS. It is also claimed to be effective in treating multiple sclerosis and certain nervous disorders.

The drug is already widely available in hundreds of Dutch coffee shops—a top tourist attraction in the socially tolerant



MEDICINAL cannabis is measured into a container in a pharmacy in Rotterdam.

country—for 25 to 30 euros for five grams, considerably less than the government's hefty recommended sale price at pharmacies.

But the state-issued product will be of guaranteed strength and quality, and the cost could be reimbursable under the national health system.

The pharmacists' spokesperson said the drug would also be packaged by the producer or pharmacist and contain clear instructions for use.

While the Netherlands has long been at odds with fellow members of the European Union about tolerance of so-called soft drugs such as cannabis, other countries are beginning to recognize its po-

tential medical benefits.

Canada began in July to sell and distribute marijuana for medical use.

In recent months, Australia and Britain also announced plans to begin testing it for medical purposes.

Nine US states have passed similar measures, but Washington remains opposed to any relaxation in drug laws.

According to a 2002 report by the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain have decriminalized the drug, too.

'Drug tourists'

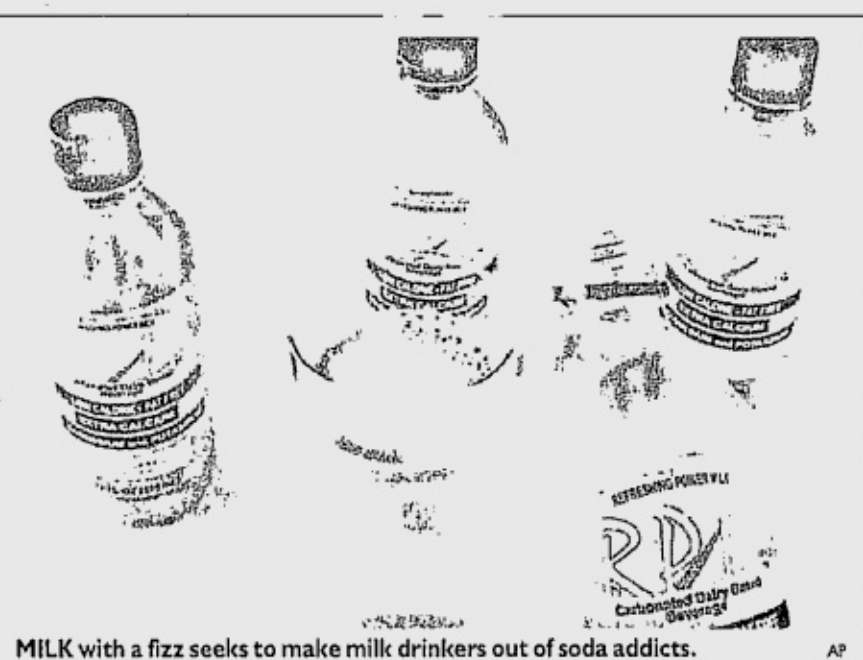
The health council of the Netherlands first reported on the medical effects of marijuana in 1996, and one of the active compounds of the drug, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is legally available in several countries as an oral pill.

The Netherlands, a standard bearer for the decriminalization of cannabis, has drawn the ire of its neighbors, who have had to deal with an onslaught of "drug tourists" heading through their territory.

Dutch officials have pressed for uniform drug laws across the EU, saying penalties for drug use in other countries are simply too tough.

The sale and use of cannabis here has been allowed in authorized bars, called coffee shops, since the 1970s. However, sales of cannabis, marijuana and hashish are limited to five grams per person. The possession of cannabis for personal use, no more than 30 grams, is legal.

Marijuana available to customers over 18 in the Dutch coffee houses, commonly known as "skunk," has been shown in laboratory tests to be more potent than the drug grown illegally in other countries. **AFP**



MILK with a fizz seeks to make milk drinkers out of soda addicts.

Pop goes the cow

THE MILO theme song has been running through my head a lot lately.

You know which one I'm talking about, the one that starts, "I'm getting ready, getting ready... Oh boy! What a day it's going to be..." The one where Bea Lucero shows off on the parallel bars, and the same one that served as background theme to Pugad Baboy's Tiny while she was trying to force her way into the gym for a workout.

Yes, that song.

I woke up one morning with it playing in my head and haven't been able to get rid of it since. Which is probably why milk commercials in general got stuck in my head. There's the Bear Brand ad where the bear rolls down the hill (the actor fainted from the heat), the Alpine milk ad with the blond cartoon boy on the picnic table, the ballet dancers for Carnation, and a little girl that I think is Lea Salonga for Klim.

I'd like to say that it was figuring out whether or not it really was Lea that got me focused on the latest news in the dairy industry, but it wasn't. What got my attention was the news that the newest milk product on the market is carbonated.

Fizzy milk

I can't picture it. I thought it would be in a Tetra Pak, until a friend pointed out that the gas from all that carbonation has to be released somehow—which means milk in plastic twist-top bottles the way they have sodas in vending machines, which means milk vending machines and shelves of bubbly milk in supermarkets.

I'd call it silk, except the soymilk people already claimed that brand name.

Are you scared yet? I am.

This new beverage is actually the brainchild of a nurse named Mary Ann Clark, who was disturbed that kids preferred sugar-watered energy drinks and caffeinated sodas to healthy beverages like, say, milk. So she decided to make milk attractive to kids by adding bubbles.

This is where the Department of Food Science at Cornell University (which is so far away from New York City that a friend of mine who went to college there got excited about milking a cow) enters the picture. Researchers there had been trying to find a way to increase the shelf life of milk by adding bubbles, too. Together they came up with a formula that involved powdered milk as the base, the naturally occurring sugar fructose, and of course, bubbles for a six-week shelf life.

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

Various flavors

Two years ago the Cornell Chronicle talked about e-Moo, as the fizzy milk was then called, and how it came in three different varieties: orange cremicle, cookies and cream and fudge brownie. I am delighted to announce that today the fizzy milk comes packaged under the name RPM—Refreshing Power Milk. (Doesn't that just get your engine revving? OK, that was bad; I apologize.)

Schools in certain parts of the United States are serving it. Maybe it'll go well with the blueberry hamburgers.

At any rate, RPM comes in vanilla cappuccino, Brazilian chocolate and chocolate raspberry.

Just how healthy is it? A 12-oz bottle has 90 calories, 40 percent of the recommended daily allowance of calcium for children, 9 gm of protein, 12 gm of sugar and 115 mg of sodium. In contrast, an equal amount of Coke has 150 calories, 40 gm of sugar and 52 mg of sodium.

So think bubbly skim milk and hope there's a good marketing campaign that makes the kids choose RPM over Coke.

Milk varieties

At this point I have to ask why we're resorting to making milk bubbly. We've already got plain old normal milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk, condensed milk, evaporated milk, lactose-free milk, skim milk, fat-free milk, and soymilk. We even have calcium supplements for anyone who can't eat dairy products to fight osteoporosis.

Now there's RPM, and there's a scientist at the University of Alberta in Canada who's working on "designer milk," using his knowledge of cow digestion to determine what mixture of cow feed will produce milk that is richer in linoleic acid, for example, which plays a role in weight loss.

Thankfully (or not), Dr. John Kenney's milk products won't be out on the market for a few more months.

I say it's time we get back to basics: drink regular milk, and (if you really must) blow bubbles in it with a straw. And sing along to the Milo tune while you're at it: "We're drinking milk, regular mi-ilk...Just think of how healthy we're gonna be..."

DENTAL IMPLANTS Regain that pretty smile

By Charles E. Buban

A MISSING or damaged tooth does not just mean losing your natural smile or not being able to eat the food you want. Partial edentulism, if ignored, can lead to bone loss making the fitting of traditional dentures difficult or impossible.

It can also place stress on the remaining teeth, requiring them to "do more work" and this can lead to further tooth loss, said Dr. Steve Mark Gan of Gan Advanced Osseointegration Center.

Gan said that when teeth are lost, Mother Nature assumes there is no need for the bone that supports the teeth.

"Over time the bone diminishes slowly, yet progressively," he said.

This process, known as resorption, makes the upper and lower jawbone shrink, and if all teeth are missing, shrinkage occurs at an even more rapid rate.

Traditional methods

For years the solutions to missing teeth were bridges and removable partial or full dentures.

A removable partial denture is usually attached to natural teeth with unsightly clasps and hooks and this can cause undue stress on the existing natural teeth and even promote tooth decay.

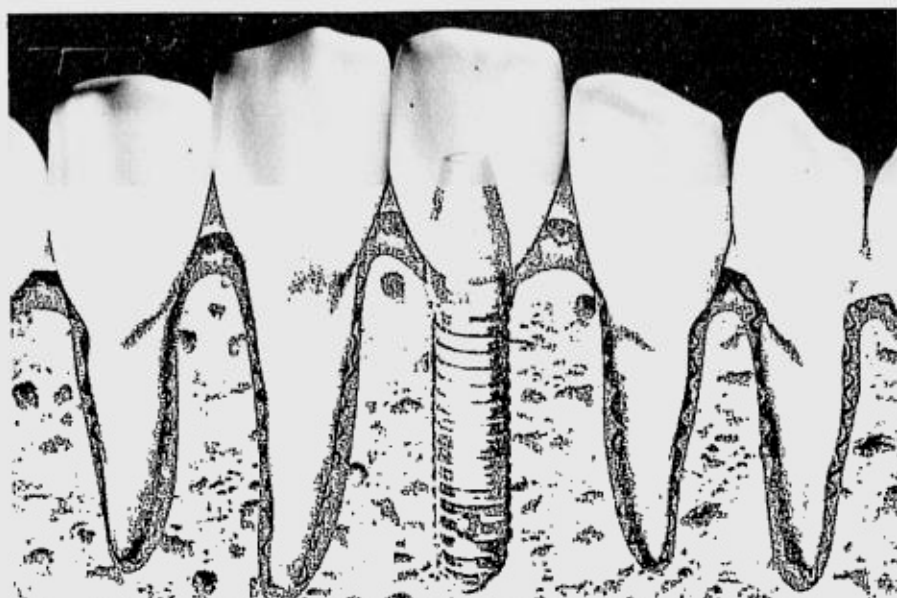
Said the dentist: "Some people can wear full dentures without fit problems, but it is not uncommon for a denture wearer to live with pain and irritation of the gums or have difficulty eating or speaking. In fact, many denture wearers are anxious about whether or not their denture is going to slip and cause embarrassment."

Removable teeth do not feel or function like natural teeth and necessitate "cutting down" and crowning natural healthy teeth to support the bridge.

Traditional dental restorations are not always the best solutions to missing teeth, said Gan.

Look, feel real

The development of dental implants or the use of prosthetic teeth is one of the biggest advances in modern dentistry



DENTAL implants make use of titanium screws that anchor the prosthesis much like the roots of natural teeth do.

and oral rehabilitation.

"With dental implants most people can get new teeth that look, feel and function like the real thing," said Gan.

Dental implants mimic the structure of natural teeth. Titanium posts or fixtures are surgically anchored in the jawbone to provide a more secure and stable support for prosthetic teeth—much like the way our natural teeth's roots are anchored into our jawbone.

Implants make use of titanium because this metal possesses high biocompatibility. This means surrounding living tissues can fuse securely with its surface, much like muscle tissues adhering to our bones.

This phenomenon is known as osseointegration, a term coined in the 1950s by Swedish surgeon Per-Ingvar Branemark when he accidentally discovered the ability of living tissues to integrate with titanium at the molecular level.

"Today more than a million patients have been treated using this method. Osseointegrated implants have the highest treatment success rate and have the least possibility of complications," said Gan.

Expensive procedure

He said many Filipinos are still not aware of this method even though it has

been in use in other parts of the world for several decades already.

"Very few dentists offer this option because one needs to be trained in this method," said Gan. "Besides, the cost of the operation is still prohibitive."

One operation can cost tens of thousands of pesos.

Gan's center uses products of Nobel Biocare, a world leader in innovative esthetic dental solutions.

During the first phase of the surgery, a hole is drilled into the bone and the titanium implant is twisted or tapped into position. A temporary cap is placed over the implant and the gum incision is closed.

During the second phase, the temporary cap is removed and the abutment is twisted into the implant.

When the gums have healed around the abutment, the dentist begins to make the prosthesis through impressions and bite registrations to create a model of the mouth. When finished, the prosthesis is attached to the abutment with a screw.

"Implants, however, are not an option for everyone," said Gan. "Since implants require surgery, patients must be in good health, have healthy gums, have adequate bone to support the implant and be committed to meticulous oral hygiene and regular dental visits."

Fresh hope for bad breath

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE SAD thing about bad breath is that you don't know you have it until you talk to somebody and he wrinkles his nose and discreetly pulls back so that he won't get another whiff.

Data provided by Pfizer Consumer Healthcare showed that contrary to popular belief, you cannot tell by yourself if you have bad breath.

Many try cupping their hands to their nose to smell exhaled air, but chances are they won't smell anything bad because a person gets used to his own odor.

"As a result, it becomes hard for you to distinguish whether or not your breath odor is foul. Also, most foul breath is created at the back of the mouth and is expelled only when we talk," the papers say.

Halimeter

One accurate way of determining bad breath is through the use of a halimeter. The patient blows into a straw-like tube connected to the halimeter and the machine detects the level of sulfur compounds in the breath that cause bad breath.

It is estimated that over 60 million people worldwide suffer from "oral malodor," "halitosis," or simply bad breath. There are no available figures on the prevalence of this social disease in the Philippines.

The data said bad breath is often blamed on food such as garlic and onions, but the condition is more associated with germs that feed on food left in the mouth. It is estimated that over 400 different types of bacteria live in our mouth and these produce volatile sulfur compounds.

Bad breath can also be blamed on poor oral hygiene, gum disease, dry mouth, alcohol use, smoking and certain medications and disorders.

Natural mouth rinse

Saliva acts as a natural mouth rinse by keeping the mouth moist and washing away bacteria.

But after sleeping for hours, people inevitably suffer from "dry mouth" or lack of saliva, one of the most common causes of bad breath.

This dry mouth condition that leads to the growth of bacteria is the reason for the so-called "morning breath."

Interesting facts shared by Pfizer showed that breath problems have been recorded as far back as 1550 BC.



Traditional remedies

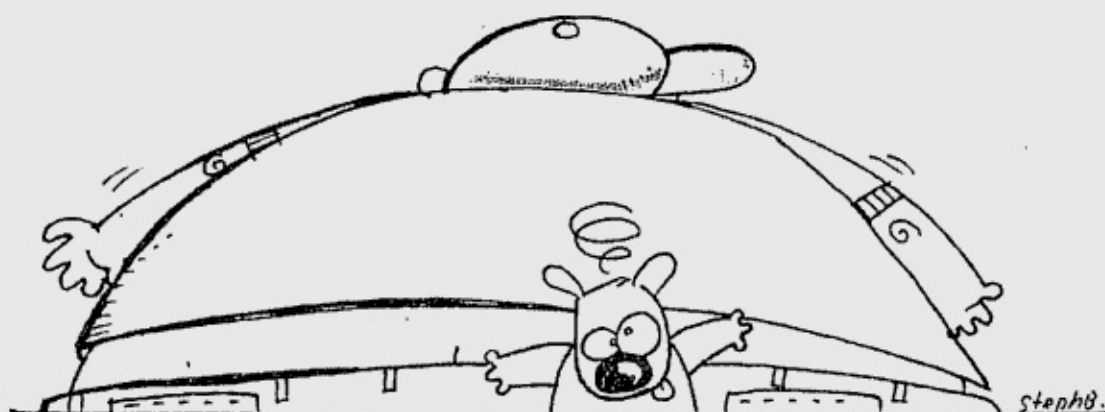
Hippocrates even suggested that sufferers rinse their mouth with herbs and wine. Other ancient remedies include chewing cloves (Iraq), peppercorns (for the Jews) and parsley (Italy).

The Jewish Talmud contains formulations for mouth rinses, while Islamic teachings emphasize the use of the Siwak, a wooden stick used for cleaning teeth.

Pfizer data showed that it takes about two to three minutes to adequately brush teeth and kill bacteria, but most people spend less than 30 seconds brushing their teeth.

It was for this reason that Pfizer developed products to help prevent bad breath. One was recognized as one of the best inventions in 2001—the Cool Mint Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips, which works like mouthwash but comes in handy film strips.

The strips melt instantly and Pfizer claims these can kill 99.9 percent of odor-causing bacteria.



Obesity and metabolic syndrome

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

OBESITY remains a big problem in developed as well as in developing countries like the Philippines. With our so-called "fast-food" culture and craving for deep-fried foods ("french fries mentality" as some call it), a good percentage of our schoolchildren are already obese and are well on their way to cardiovascular perdition in their adult life. That's why patients developing strokes and heart attacks are now getting younger and younger.

There was a time when someone having a heart attack in his 20s was completely unheard of.

Today, emergency room physicians are seeing more and more of these unfortunate cases of premature atherosclerosis (aging of the arteries), and a good number of these patients are obese.

Diabetes

With obesity comes a myriad of complications such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol problems, and this cluster of metabolic problems forms a potent "concoction" that can literally explode with some serious complications.

The term "diabetes" was coined to reflect the vicious liaison of these risk factors.

The Philippine Society for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo), founded and headed by Dr. Augusto Litonjua, is currently holding a convention at the Edsa Shangri-la to discuss updates on obesity and its attendant complications.

The Pasoo is doing an outstanding job of educating the public and doctors on how to im-

prove lifestyle practices to curb the obesity epidemic.

Speaking of active interventions to treat obesity, it looks like a new study is going to resurrect enthusiasm on the weight-reducing pill Xenical (orlistat).

Many can still remember when then President Joseph Estrada admitted taking the drug regularly to lose weight. He appeared to

be an effective accidental endorser of the product, and instantly everyone knew what Xenical was for.

Proven effectiveness

Orlistat has been shown to be more significantly effective than diet alone in reducing weight and improving cardiovascular risk factors in patients with metabolic syndrome, according to the landmark Xenical study presented during the recent 12th European Congress on Obesity in Helsinki, Finland.

Metabolic syndrome, otherwise known as Syndrome X or insulin resistance syndrome, is a cluster of three or more risk factors, such as increased waist measurement (watch out if your waist circumference is more than 36 inches), increased fasting sugar levels, abnormal blood cholesterol levels and high blood pressure, leading to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

One in five people in Western countries has metabolic syndrome and is considered a "cardiovascular time bomb."

Weight loss is a necessary intervention that has been shown to improve all of the cardiovascular risk factors in patients with metabolic syndrome.

Study results

Forty percent of Xenical study participants had metabolic syn-

drome. Among orlistat-treated patients, results showed:

- More than twice as much weight loss than those on diet alone (-6.4 kg against -2.9 kg)
- A significantly greater reduction in waist measurement compared to those on diet alone (-6.1 cm against -3.8 cm)
- A significantly greater reduction in systolic and diastolic blood pressure compared to those on diet alone (-5.4 mmHg against -3.5 mmHg and -3.1 mmHg against -2.0 mmHg, respectively)
- A significantly greater reduction in triglyceride levels compared to those on diet alone (0.08 mmol/L against 0.22 mmol/L)
- An increase in HDL (good) cholesterol (+.90 percent from the baseline).

In addition, significantly fewer orlistat-treated patients progress to diabetes compared to those on diet alone, with a relative risk reduction of 36 percent.

Xenical study investigator Dr. Jarl Torgerson said metabolic syndrome was "fast becoming the epidemic of the 21st century, with serious implications for cardiovascular disease in the future."

"These study results show that orlistat boosts the beneficial effects of weight loss in people with metabolic syndrome. Orlistat, together with lifestyle changes, is a powerful approach to the effective management of this condition."

Xenical was the first large-scale and longest clinical trial to assess the efficacy and safety of a weight-loss medication that showed a reduction in the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. It must be emphasized though that orlistat has to be combined with lifestyle modification for more effective diabetes prevention and weight loss.

Proud to be teachers

(Second of three parts)

LAST week we looked at the first part of my response on behalf of the 2003 Metrobank Outstanding Teacher Awardees last Sept. 5. I detailed the circumstances that made me choose this profession. Now we look at what my fellow awardees have achieved:

Where else but in teaching would we continually be astounded by the creativity of our charges?

When Mrs. Salvacion Calabucal noticed her visually impaired students shaking bottles aimlessly, she placed beans inside empty containers, asked the kids to follow her 1-2-shake up-shake down instructions, and formed a band. Soon they were performing musical renditions in Hard Rock Café, Shangri-la and Makati City Hall.

When narra trees shed their leaves, Mrs. Lilia Ramos' class would catch the falling leaves before they touched the ground and all of them would make a wish. The kids would place the leaves under their pillows at night so their wish would come true. Other grade levels joined in, and now their school in Iloilo City has an official "Make-a-Wish Day."

Native materials

Where else but in teaching would we learn to be creative ourselves?

Not content to specialize solely in Filipino, Mrs. Marilou Yogyog designs indigenized instructional materials in folk dance, arts and sports, and trains athletes in table tennis, track and field and softball who have won honors for her school.

Not content to remain solely in the classroom, Dr. Samuel Soliven, once dubbed "Batang Kaingero" because of his humble origins, took his class to the airwaves, hosting a school-on-the-air at dWRN Bayombong, where he taught science and technology in the vernacular.

Although the subject Rizal is

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



often deemed trite and boring, Dr. Sonia Daquila analyzed its philosophical, psychological and social contexts, and changed students' and educators' perception in Bacolod.

Making a difference

Where else but in teaching could we make a difference in our students' lives?

When Mrs. Ma. Luisa Gibraltar's pupil was afraid to go home to a father who beat him up, she welcomed him into her own home, and had a heart-to-heart talk with the parents, lovingly advising them to care for their son and to treat him with respect.

Although her specialty was research, Dr. Evelyn Sorolla founded the "Balik-Paaralan Para sa Out-of-School Adults Program" and inspired less privileged adults to return to the academe, finish high school, uplift their dignity and become productive members of the community.

As for Dr. Jaime An-Lim, who declared, "I did not choose teaching; teaching chose me," he was destined to be a teacher. First and second graders in his old school used to share the same classroom, the same teacher, the same class period. While the teacher was handling the first graders, he would teach his classmates how to read. He says, "An open book on my lap, a finger moving from word to word, I patiently guided them through a reading passage." Dr. An-Lim was then 7 years old.

Affection, respect, love

Most of all, where else but in teaching could we have received so much unconditional affection, respect and love in return?

When Mrs. Lourma Puculan's former Grade 3 student got married, she was the emcee during the reception. The bride's mother confided that all these years her daughter had been admiring the way her teacher spoke. A little boy wanted to marry her when he grew up.

When Mrs. Dahlia Fabillar witnesses her former students, among them a mayor of their town, a professor at a prestigious university, and a vice president of a multinational company, she cannot help but feel proud, for evidently they are proof of the success of her mission.

Perhaps Mr. Renato Carvajal, with whom I am proud to share the same campus, sums it up best. He was a barefoot schoolboy from La Union, the son of a janitor. He was a *pan de sal* vendor at 6, a shoe shine boy at 8, a sacristan at 10, and an accidental teacher at 19.

He says, "There is no wasted time in teaching. I always go home tired but not burned out, spent but not weighed down, emptied but still looking forward to giving more the next day. All my school days give me a good night's sleep, and I would not exchange teaching for any other job in the world. Every school day well spent is already a reward in itself."

Past Metrobank Awardees would humbly state that they accept this honor on behalf of the unsung public and private school heroes of our land. And they would be right. They would also acknowledge that they were the lucky ones—we were the lucky ones—the ones with supportive administrations, encouraging colleagues, motivated students.

In the words of my friend Dr. Ricky Abad, an awardee two years ago, "We are blessed that we come from schools and homes that keep the torches of our teaching flame aglow in our increasingly naughty, naughty world."

And again they would be right.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 12, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	3,300
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	43	43	42	43	874,200
China Banking Corp.	665	665	665	665	5,600
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	33.5	33.5	291,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	29.5	389,800
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	7,100
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	10,000
Union Bank Of The Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	45,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1675	1675	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1205	1210	1205	1205	1,620
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	42,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	3,600,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	690	690	59,070
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	3,000,000
ISN Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	8,000,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	625	630	620	620	124,450
Ivanhoe Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	840,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	17,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	228,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.5	21.5	1,088,800
Petrone Corp.	2	2	1.92	1.94	3,777,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.94	0.97	0.94	0.97	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	313,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	314,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Genibra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	79,700
Justbees Foods Corp.	17.75	18	17.5	17.5	250,700
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	100,500
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	48,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.3	4,861,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Ambatiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	24,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.58	9,050,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	520,000
DMDI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,300,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	25,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.25	17.75	18.25	445,100
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	62	65	62	65	200
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	1,160,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	126,000
J.B. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	56,000
Keppel Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.69	0.64	0.69	120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.89	1,010,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	500,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	5,260,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	2,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	287,000
Uniwire Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	300,000
Stenel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	200,000
Monkragent Intl Phils Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	750,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	15,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000

PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb
Philweb Corp. - Warrants

Centro Escolar University
Far Eastern University

Ayala Land Inc.
C & P Homes Inc.

Cybor Bay Corp.
Empire East Land Inc.

Fininvest Land Inc.
Golesco Land Inc.

Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.
Kuoil Phil. Properties

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Robinsons Land Corp.

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SM Prime Holdings Inc.

Dizon Copper Silver Mines
Omico Corp.

Polar Mines & Dev'l Corp.
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Oriental Pet. & Min. B
Sinophill Corp.

South China Resources Inc.
Bank & Fin Svc.

Comm'l & Ind'l.
PRO

Mining.
OIL

GRAND TOTALS:
AVERAGES

Bank & Fin Svc.
Comm'l & Ind'l

PRO
Mining.

OIL
SME

All Shares Index
Composite

NO OF ADVANCES: 16; NO OF DECLINES: 44; NO OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO OF TRADED ISSUES: 99;
NO OF TRADES: 1,366

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World trade talks show little progress

CANCUN, Mexico—World trade talks near the half-way stage on Friday with rich and poor nations expected to be presented with a first attempt at compromise although they remain divided over the core issue of how to slash billions of dollars of subsidies to Western farmers.

The meeting of World Trade Organization (WTO) ministers aims to wrap up an accord by Sunday to revive talks on a new trade deal, which the World Bank says could lift millions of people out of poverty and boost the flagging global economy.

But negotiations have got no further than a standoff between newly assertive developing

countries and the European Union and the United States over agricultural commerce.

A deal on agriculture is central to the success of the meeting as developing nations blame the \$300 billion in subsidies doled out each year to EU and US farmers as the reason their own farmers are blocked from world markets.

The farm talks are the toughest part of the negotiations, but other key issues also divide the 146-member WTO.

The EU is pushing hard for guidelines on foreign investment and competition to be grafted into world trade rules, but it has found virtually no allies among the developing nations.

Reuters

IMF sees risks to world economy

WASHINGTON—A fast-rising mountain of public debt in Latin America and Asia and extremely weak economic growth in the Middle East are problems that threaten future global growth and political stability, the International Monetary Fund said.

The IMF on Thursday highlighted a number of global economic threats in a series of new reports that will set the agenda for next week's annual meetings of the 184-nation IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Those meetings are expected to focus on efforts to help Argentina, which was forced into a record debt default in 2001, to emerge from the worst economic crisis in its history as well as discussions on how to boost global growth.

US Treasury Secretary John Snow said that his goal during the IMF meetings would be to stress the need for other countries to follow the lead of the United States, which has enacted a third round of tax cuts, by taking aggressive steps to bolster growth.

"During my talks, I will report that as a result of President Bush's leadership, the US economy is returning to higher levels of

growth, but that the global economy requires Europe and Asia to attain higher levels of growth as well," Snow said in a statement Thursday.

"The number one issue facing the global economy is the need for more engines of growth," Snow said.

The IMF and Argentina reached agreement late Wednesday on a new three-year loan deal which will supply the country with \$21 billion in loans from the IMF and other multilateral lending agencies aimed at bolstering growth and shoring up the nation's currency and battered banking system.

Argentina was forced into the biggest government default in history in December 2001 when the IMF cut off further loans because the country had failed to live up to economic reform commitments.

Since that time, the IMF and Argentina have been locked in often bitter negotiations to come up with a new economic reform program with Argentine authorities complaining that the IMF was demanding too much austerity as the price for new loans.

The government of new President Nestor

Kirchner, who took office in May, defaulted on a \$2.9 billion payment to the IMF that was due Tuesday in an effort to force more lenient terms in the new debt deal.

Argentine officials said they will now make up the missed payment and the IMF's executive board is expected to give its approval for the new loan package at next week's meetings in Dubai.

The IMF agreement clears the way for Argentina to begin negotiations with private creditors on rescheduling the more than \$90 billion in private sector debt Argentina defaulted on in 2001. Investors are expected to take a heavy loss on those Argentine bonds.

The IMF warned in one of its reports Thursday that further debt defaults were likely unless developing countries did more to restrain the growth of debt by broadening their tax base and curbing government spending.

The IMF study noted the number of costly debt defaults or painful debt restructurings that various countries have been forced to endure in recent years including Argentina, Ecuador, Pakistan, Russia, Ukraine and Uruguay.

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318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	3k	1,890,000
318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	9k	1,795,000
318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	8k	1,795,000
318i Executive	2003	Titanium Silver	11k	1,950,000
325i	2003	Titanium Silver	10k	2,550,000
325i	2003	Titanium Silver	4k	2,650,000
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740i	2003	Black Sapphire	4k	3,150,000

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318tds	1996	Titanium Silver	52k	875,000
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316i	1999	Alpine White	24k	1,150,000
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Japan moves to address interest rate concerns

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan, leaving overall monetary policy unchanged, moved to address concerns over rising long-term interest rates on Friday with plans to study extending the maturities of securities it buys in repurchase operations.

The central bank said its Policy Board agreed to ask bank staff to look into the idea and report at the next policy meeting on October 9-10.

"Views were expressed that it should be desirable to extend the maturity of the purchase/sale of government securities with repurchase agreements," the bank said in a statement.

Recent rises in long-term interest rates in Japan have raised concerns that companies would face higher financing costs just as their profits are starting to recover, while burdening the government with higher debt service costs at a time when its revenues from taxes are falling.

Japanese government bond (JGB) prices rose after the BOJ announcement, with the

yield on the benchmark 253rd 10-year bond at 1.48 percent, down three basis points from the day's high of 1.51 percent hit just before the announcement.

Analysts said the BOJ's move was aimed at curbing rises in short-term money market rates as well as in JGB yields.

"JGB repurchase operations usually provide three-month funds.

So by conducting relatively long-term operations, the BOJ would be helping to ease rising pressure in mid- to short-term interest rates," said Izuru Kato, chief economist at Tota Research Co.

The BOJ buys 1.2 trillion yen (\$10.25 billion) of Japanese government bonds from the market each month as part of its "quantitative easing" policy, which has kept short-term interest rates at virtually zero for more than two years.

BOJ Governor Toshihiko Fukui and other officials have been cautious about the rises in rates, saying only that they were watching the market closely.

Reuters

US job market weak despite growth signs

WASHINGTON—Americans are finding it unexpectedly tough to hold their jobs but other areas of the economy are showing signs of a pickup, two government reports showed on Thursday.

The number of US workers lining up to claim first-time unemployment benefits showed a surprise increase last week, the Labor Department said, adding to a dismal labor market picture.

A separate report on trade from the Commerce Department showed signs of a slight pickup in economic activity, which economists said bodes well for growth in the third quarter.

But this was not enough to shake claims the economy is stuck in a jobless recovery, a worry for President George W. Bush as the 2004 presidential election approaches.

"It's surprisingly bad news," said John Lonski, chief economist at Moody's Investors Service.

"This tells us that the very good news we had on consumer spending for the months of July and August will not last unless employment growth returns," he said.

The grim news on employment supports comments from Federal Reserve officials that interest rates will stay low for a while even as growth picks up. It also gives ammunition to Bush's opponents who say his economic policies have done little to help Americans find jobs.

"The disappointing pickup in the pace of layoffs reinforces the likelihood that the... (Fed) will continue to emphasize the large amount of slack in the economy and downside risks with respect to inflation," said Jade Zelnik, an economist at Greenwich Capital.

The Fed next meets to discuss interest rates on Sept. 16.

Analysts are expecting rates to be left on hold at 45-year lows of 1 percent at that meeting and into next year.

The Labor Department said first-time filings for state jobless benefits rose by 3,000 to 422,000 in the week to Sept. 6. The climb, which pushed claims to their highest since early July, defied Wall Street predictions for a drop to 400,000 from the 413,000 originally reported for the Aug. 30 week.

The 400,000 level is seen by economists as a dividing line between a deteriorating and improving labor market.

Stocks shrugged off the numbers ending the day higher. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 39.30 points at 9459.76. The dollar initially weakened on the claims report but then also strengthened against some currencies encouraged by the stock market's performance.

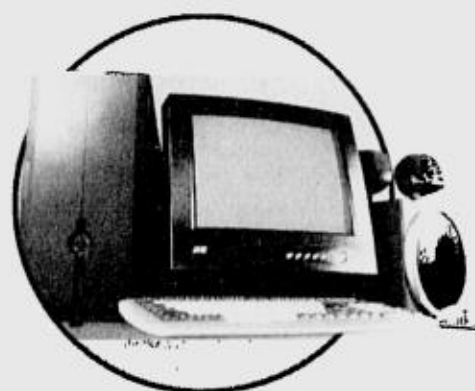
Reuters

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People, Events & Products

Grow your business with East West Bank's Corporate Suite

AS THE business grows, office administrative tasks like payroll, check preparation, and collection have become more complex and immense. To run it efficiently, more manpower may be needed. However, this move may be too costly, and time-consuming, efforts are concentrated on the non-core aspects of the business.

East West Banking Corp. (EWC), one of the fastest growing banks in the country can easily take on the burden of these administrative functions with its cash management services called Corporate Suite. The East West Bank Corporate Suite allows businesses to outsource repetitive and time-challenged transactions with the least amount of expense, allowing business-owners to attend to the more pressing needs of their businesses.

The East West Bank Corporate Suite takes care of the various tasks, from disbursement and reconciliation, to payment collection. These are covered by the different facilities under the Corporate Suite as follows: PayrollAssist, ChequePrepare, BizCheque, BillsCollect, ChequeDepot, and Collect@Site.

The PayrollAssist is EWC's most popular facility due to the versatility and range of the service. It is an automated payroll preparation, payment and credit facility that allows for an

easier and convenient payroll preparation and crediting process through a proprietary software developed exclusively for EWBC clients, and loaded with features not found in most payroll programs, including a built-in 201 file called Human Resource Information System.

ChequePrepare and BizCheque both address the check preparation and check-writing requirements of corporate clients and SMEs. ChequePrepare practically eliminates manual preparation, individual signing of voluminous loads of checks, and tedious disbursement. Meanwhile, for small and medium enterprises, BizCheque not only provides a versatile interest-earning checking account, but a check preparation software as well that ensures operational efficiency and up-to-date fund management, including monitoring of payables. Even an ordinary office printer can be transformed into a check printer to customize the checks, with matching company logo to boot.

On the collection side, East West Bank came up with its Corporate Collection facilities to answer the client's need to collect from various channels. BillsCollect makes the Bank's Personalized Banking Center (PBC) as the company's payment center, doing away with the hiring of collection agents or setting up collection offices. It is highly

systematized with the daily summary of collections sent electronically, and same day payment credit to the client's account.

ChequeDepot is another welcome tool for check management. In this case, EWBC takes care of the safekeeping and warehousing of postdated checks, crediting them to the client's account as soon as they fall due, without the need for manual tracking of these checks. Collect@Site, meanwhile, another value-for-money service is provided by the bank which offers the convenience of not having to go to the bank to deposit substantial amounts, whether cash or check. An armored car with complete security escort will be sent to the client's office to pick up the deposits, providing a safe and risk-free way of transporting deposits to the bank.

All these services are available to the client provided the pre-arranged Average Daily Balance on the account is met. The Corporate Suite, another innovative banking service from East West Bank meant to explore the many opportunities in service that goes beyond banking basics and help build lasting relationships with its clients. To know more about Corporate Suite, call the 8ACCESS (822-2377) hotline, and request for a product presentation now.



NOKIA INTERVILLAGE GOLF TOURNAMENT GRAND FINALS

The Nokia Intervillage Golf Tournament capped its successful year with a recent awarding ceremony held at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Cavite. Among the 12 teams who vied for the Intervillage Grand Champion Cup, reigning cup holder Philam Homes held on to their crown as the

Nokia Intervillage Golf Tournament overall champions. Led by team captain Bayani Fontanilla, the team poses with Nokia executives Kent Sitaca, national account manager, and Farida Mending from the marketing department (third row, second and third from the left respectively).



11TH NATIONAL PR CONGRESS REGISTRATION ONGOING

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) announces the ongoing registration for the 11th National Public Relations Congress to be held on Sept. 24 to 26 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The congress aims to bring together the country's corporate PR executives and professionals, faculty and students, advertising and marketing practitioners, and information officers from various government agencies. This year's theme is: 'Building Relationships for a Better World'. Shown unveiling the congress logo are its team heads (from left): Ma. Amylyn

de Quiros, APR, Full Circle Communications - programs; Carmencita Arce, GMA Network - ways and means; Jones Campos, APR, Globe Telecom - congress chair; Lourdes de Guzman, CAP Philippines Inc. - publicity and information; Winston Marbella, APR, Marbella International Business Consultancy - PRSP president and Felisa Rosales, Land Bank of the Phils. - administrative. Other details about the 11th National PR Congress can be accessed from the PRSP website www.prsp-online.org or by calling the PRSP secretariat at 636-3242 to 43.



PUYAT STEEL AWARDS 5S CHAMPIONS

Puyat Steel Corp., the country's pioneer in the galvanizing industry, recently paid tribute to its outstanding 5S practitioners in a simple but fitting ceremony held at its C.G.L./N.O.F. plant in Bo. Masaya, Rosario, Batangas on July 24. The 5S Champions were given due recognition by Puyat Steel's officers headed by Salvo D. Perez (VP and GM), Virginia C. Arceo (VP, manufacturing) and Michael Pedralvez and Ronald R. Santarin (5S

committee chair and co-chair, respectively). Beaming with pride are from left: M. de Chavez, R. Santarin, H. Mercado, A. Villanueva, Jr. (5S Officer), G. Ramos, M. Pedralvez, M. Siglos, Mr. N. Yap (AVP, GI sales), A. Solatre, S. D. Perez (VP & GM), M. Tuballa, V. C. Arceo (VP, manufacturing), P. C. Mabao (PPC/logistics manager), M. Soquena, M. Asebo, I. Villapando and A. Fortus.



FY04 NATIONAL CONFAB

Clorox International Philippines Inc. recently honored its top distributor for Prestone Brake Fluid, Coolant and STP Car Care products during the FY04 National Sales Conference. Shown in photo are Cres Fernandez, president of CJ Fernandez Enterprises Inc. accepting the Top Distributor award from Ramon Calimbahin (third from left), president of Clorox International Philippines Inc. Also in photo are Rommel Mojares (extreme left), product manager and Margie Quizon (extreme right), finance and admin director of Clorox International Phils. Inc.



CITIBANK MAKATI ART EXHIBIT

Citibank's flagship branch in Makati recently celebrated its 28th anniversary recently with the art exhibit dubbed 'Celebrating Filipina Beauty in Art', showcasing the original works of painter Lydia Velasco-Cruz. Curated by the Crucible Gallery, the exhibit featured 15 original paintings of Velasco-Cruz, who is noted for having women as her sole subject. Citibank executives led by country business manager for consumer bank Nina Aguas, director for retail banking Patrick Cheng, marketing director Cecille Fonacier, Citigold head for Makati Ailene Litonjua, and branch manager Nida Capistrano welcomed guests to the exhibit. Shown in photo are (from left) painter Lydia Velasco-Cruz and Citibank country business manager for consumer bank Nina Aguas formally opening the exhibit.

Inkman: caring for Mother Earth

INKMAN, Ventures Inc., started-out with one simple idea: to help protect the environment through building an industry that would focus on one standard, to profit from a contribution to save nature. It would not take a genius to figure-out that the by-product of the evolution of modern printers would be billions of ink cartridges thrown off into one endangered planet.

It was during the late 90s when the Philippines' electronic technology was overwhelmed with the inflow of imported computer printers. The price value of this modern printers was acceptable to the Philippine trade but the purchase of branded ink cartridges was just too painful to the Filipino consumers' budget.

It was a call of duty and a little of creativity from two bright Filipino minds. Jhun and Erick of Manila Techtrade Ventures sat upon this concerns and started a

venture. It was 1999, when the ink-recycling industry in the Philippines was born. Since then, the two never looked-back.

Now, the Filipinos have the perfect alternative to what once seemed, hardly affordable and awfully expensive ink cartridges. Four years of dedicated effort has succeeded. Proven to save so much, from your printer, to the Filipino budget and to Mother Earth. Now, Inkman is the premier provider of quality ink products nationwide.

Others have tried to research for the wrong reason, others have tried to set standards, others have tried to invest on what they perceive to be the perfect business, but nothing beats the real thing. Only Inkman brings incomparable ink quality at the expense perfectly suited for the general public's budget. Visit their booth at the Franchise Expo 2003, booth #406.

Clips

Ragnarok launch

A NIGHT of free game trials, exciting prizes and pop rock music await online gaming fans today at 6:00 p.m. as Level Up! with Samsung World Cyber Games, presents its Philippine Ragnarok launch at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City to be highlighted by a live performance from Moonstar 88. The event is open to the public. Hosted by Bam Aquino, Charissa Liton and Ryan Agoncillo, the party will be broadcast live by Magic 89.9 DWTM. For more information about the event and Philippine Ragnarok online, visit www.level-up-games.com

UST Cafa Batch 83 Homecoming

THE UST College of Architecture Batch 1983 will be holding its Alumni Homecoming on Nov. 22, 6:00 p.m. at The Forum, 3/F, Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. 300 graduates, guests and faculty members are expected to attend the affair. A kick-off party will also be held today, 7:00 p.m. at the Via Mare Restaurant, Penthouse, Tekit Tower, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. For more information, call tel. nos. 921-3859, 811-4432, 0917-898-3859/0917-897-2143.

Crush Gear Tournament at SM Fairview

GREAT news for all Crush Gear enthusiasts, this Sept. 14 at SM City Fairview, Activity Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Bankae Trading, the exclusive distributor of the original Crush Gear by Bandai will host another tournament. Experience the action and thrill of Crush Gear Battle Games, a showcase of skill, speed, and unique game strategy. Bring the whole family and win exciting prizes. For more information call Bankae hotline at 373-9600.

Sogo celebrates 13th year

Now is the time for you to get into that shopping mood because affordable is the operative word when you buy at Sogo this month.

After more than a decade of serving customers, Sogo Home & Office Center celebrates its 13th year this whole month of September with many delightful offerings.

"3-Way SALEbration" is Sogo's way of saying 'thank you' to its numerous customers. Shop at Sogo from until Sept. 15 and get the following unbelievable offers: three-piece microwavable containers for just P5. A three-piece water set for P20 and an oven toaster for P200. You can avail of these items at these incredible prices when you buy any small appliance or houseware items worth P500 and up.

A wide selection of the latest top-brand big appliances from major manufacturers can also be found in all Sogo branches at the

best prices possible.

Looking for furniture? Look no further as Sogo offers a variety of very affordable pieces throughout the month. Enjoy state-of-the-art living with the finest sofas, available in different colors and styles. Pick your fave wardrobe cabinets and display your chosen audio-video appliances in stylish and modern entertainment centers. Everything that you need for comfortable living is available in Sogo - AliMall Cubao and Sogo - Tutuban Centermall - where you should go to shop for your furniture needs.

Visit the branch nearest you today: 3/L Robinsons Galleria; 2/L Glorietta 1 in Ayala Center, Makati; 2/L Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang; AliMall; G/F Robinsons Place- Novaliches; and 2/F Tutuban Centermall 1. Or you may call 6320672, 8672353, 8503539, 9126604, 9358923, and 2304185.



MEDICAL MISSION AT MAJAYJAY

The Public Affairs Group AFPRescom recently conducted a medical, dental, optical, deworming, milkfeeding and nutritional product distribution, operation in Majayjay Laguna, home of the 202nd Brigade 2nd ID (PA), treating over 1,000 patients. The commanding general of AFPRescom Brig. Gen. Froilan Maglaya and Mrs. Maglaya paid

a visit to the PAG team on site. Shown in picture are from left: Major Inocencio Diaz (PAG) lead dental team; Brig. Gen. Froilan Maglaya, commanding general of AFPRescom; Col. Ed Ramos (PA) of PAG; Col. Virgilio Espinola (PA) commander of 202nd Brigade, 2nd ID PA; Col. Jess Cabarrus (PAF) PAG commander, and Mrs. Maglaya.

Product FILES

Chamyto: perfect for kids

NESTLÉ Philippines introduces new Chamyto with live Lactobacillus Fortis, the magic in a little bottle fortified with a kid-friendly lactobacillus strain. As the digestive system of children is not yet fully-developed unlike that of adults, tots become easy targets for unhealthy microorganisms that cause ugly gut problems including diarrhea and constipation. Chamyto solves this dilemma by aiding in the digestion process and helps your kids absorb all the nutrients from the food they eat. Thus Chamyto helps strengthen your kids immune system allowing more time to do things he would like to do. What's more, new Chamyto has a less acidic formulation that's gentle and suitable for your child's less developed digestive system. And since most kids are averse to strong acidic flavors, they will love the new Chamyto because of its mild, yummy taste. It comes in three delightful flavors: original, apple and orange, available at the chilled section of your favorite supermarket and convenience store.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The bids and Awards Committee of the DOH - Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley, Carig, Tuguegarao City hereby invites interested bidders to a public bidding for medical & hospital supplies and hospital & laboratory equipment.

The approved budget is P3,876,000.00 sourced from GOP.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Registration Requirements, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents: Sept. 15 to Oct. 3, 2003 (Monday-Friday) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. BAC Secretariat, DOH, CHD-CV

Pre-Bid Conference: September 29, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV

Deadline for Submission of Sealed Bid Documents & Sealed Eligibility Requirements: October 6, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV

Sealed bids will be opened immediately after deadline in the same place and on the same date.

Late bids will not be accepted.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security.

Bid documents shall be given upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of P1,000.00.

The RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government and supportive to the needs of the DOH, CHD-CV, Tuguegarao City.

For more details, please contact RBAC Secretariat at telephone no. 846-7230.

(Sgd.) TITA N. CALLUENG, MD, MPH
Director III

(PDI - Sept 13 & 20 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT: Construction of 170,000 cav. cap. warehouse with Office and Site Development

LOCATION: ANTIPOLO CITY

CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION: Medium "B" minimum

APPROVED BUDGET: P25,301,704.90

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Submission of Letter of Intent Issuance of Eligibility forms: September 8-26, 2003 September 8-26, 2003 up to 5:00 p.m. only

Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Forms Eligibility Check: September 18-30, 2003 up to 5:00 p.m. only October 01-02, 2003 up to 5:00 p.m. only

Issuance of Bid Documents Pre-bidding Conference Submission and Opening of Bids: Oct. 3-10, 2003 October 14, 2003; 2:00 p.m. October 28, 2003; 2:00 p.m.

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Eligibility and registration requirements may be secured and submitted to the BAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent not later than the date stated above and payment of a non-refundable application fee of P500.00 at National Food Authority, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidding documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00 for the Antipolo warehouse project and P8,000.00 for the 3-storey building project at Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA Boardroom, National Food Authority, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept 6 & 13 2003)



NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(A) OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF MARCH 31, 2003 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2003.

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OF PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED. FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

(Sgd.) Asst. Dir. JAIME LASARO L. OLMOS
Carelaker BTRC

(PDI - Sept 13 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
CITY OF VIGAN

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The City Government of Vigan invites all interested suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and to submit sealed bids for the supply of a Cutter Suction Dredging Equipment funded through a loan by Land Bank & Japan Bank International Cooperation.

- 1) Eligibility Screening/Pre-qualification documents may be secured from the: BAC Technical Secretariat City Planning and Development Office, Vigan City Tel. # (077) 722-8772-75 local 213 from September 15-17, 2003 upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P100.00
- 2) Duty accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be submitted not later than 3:00 p.m. of September 23, 2003.
- 3) All participating bidders shall be informed in writing of their qualification or disqualification.
- 4) Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders by the BAC Technical Secretariat of the City Government of Vigan upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 on September 29 and 30, 2003.
- 5) The Pre-Bid conference shall be held on October 1, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
- 6) Submission of Bids shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of October 14, 2003 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Session Hall of Vigan and shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. of the same day.

The City Government of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bids/is/are considered most advantageous to LGU.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
City Vice Mayor
Acting Chairman BAC

(PDI - September 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

September, 2003

Loan No. 1750-PH. TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

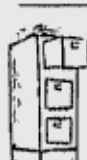
1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Audio-Visual and Office Equipment for Courseware Development (ADBTES-02).
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of various audio visual and office equipment such as cameras, LCD monitors, video player/recorder and other related equipment for use in TESDP.
3. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's International Shopping (IS) procedure, single-stage one-envelope, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document from 9:00-4:00 pm, Monday to Friday from September 8, 2003 at the address given in Item 9 below.
5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below beginning September 8, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,000.00 or US\$40.00 to the TESDA Cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila. Foreign bidders may deposit through BSP Account No. 021085295 with Federal Reserve Bank of New York for further credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCD Dollar Account. The method of payment will either be in certified bank cheque or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A Pre-Bid Conference with interested eligible Bidders will be held on October 01, 2003, 2:00 pm at the address below, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon on November 10, 2003, accompanied with a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on November 10, 2003 at 2:00 PM.
8. TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
9. The address of the Project Management Office is:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Compound, TESDP Project Management Office
Ground Floor, Pevoti Building
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines

Contact Person : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
Telefax : (63 2) 8938306

(PDI-Sept 6 & 13 2003)

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Dionisio Abinaña	Cagayan De Oro City	Artemio C. Abinaña SS # 06-1601968-9	March 7, 2003
2) Yoshiko Alarcon	Villa Angeles, Orion, Bataan	Hermie E. Alarcon SS # 03-130477-0	June 12, 2003
3) Gloria Ricalrente w/ other minor child	Sia. Rita, Melinta, Valenzuela City	Eddie Almocete SS # 03-3033604-6	May 25, 2003
4) Lolita C. Aquino	4DN-4th Fl., 8th Ave., Grace Park, Calocan City	Domingo R. Aquino SS # 03-375357-8	March 2, 2001
5) Conchita Aring	Unknown	Jose R. Aring SS # 03-1997922-4	November 9, 1993
6) Necanora Guyala	Unknown	Adolfo H. Brenbuela SS # 03-3925413-2	June 10, 2002
7) Enne S. Caday	Caman-Mangan, Cagayan De Oro City	Gerasmo Caday SS # 08-0972465-6	July 2, 2002
8) Crisanta/ Palsan Solon	Coca Cola Village, Mairna, Davao City	Concepcion S. Camaro SS # 09-2363788-0	June 24, 2003
9) Nella Carpio	Unknown	Isidro Carpio SS # 03-4974427-6	July 18, 2003
10) Amparo Concepcion	#710 Lepanto, Cuiapo, Manila	Wenceslao Catangay, Sr. SS # 03-0141881-2	May 25, 2003
1) Ma. Trinidad De Guzman	Unknown	Rolando De Guzman SS # 10-0115585-6	November 7, 2002
2) Lea C. Dellosa	Silio Polo, Purok 4, Las Pias City	Anacito C. Dellosa SS # 03-6156312-8	February 28, 2003
3) Susana Gamalo	Victoria, Laguna	Rafael Ermocilla SS # 03-3055455-6	June 20, 2002
4) Linda Antonio Angelica Elting	Rajah Roluda, Bula, Gen. Santos City	Eduardo Elting SS # 09-0364957-8	February 18, 2003
5) Werner Garmesen	1013 B. Teresa St., Rizal Vn., Makati	Eliza D. Garmesen SS # 03-1439644-2	July 9, 1998
6) Victorino Gallardo	Unknown	Romeo P. Gallardo SS # 33-4750236-5	January 6, 2000
17) Carmelito Germonio	Unknown	Baby Menchie M. Germonio SS # 33-3311722-7	November 6, 2002
18) Marilyn Antolin Gonzales	Blk 0-10 Area E, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Apollo M. Gonzales SS # 03-5985844-0	July 5, 2003
19) Cecelia Gubat	Alegria, San Isidro, Northern Samar	Francisco Gubat SS # 03-1645410-4	June 29, 2003
20) Ernest Menz/ Edgar Saragoza	Unknown	Erlinda Halog SS # 03-3211017-6	May 22, 2003
21) Lucia Lugas	San Isidro, Ormoc City	Molises M. Lugas SS # 06-0435955-5	May 28, 2003
22) Susana R. Morales	Libertad, Isabel, Leyte	Eusebio Morales SS # 06-0774063-7	June 5, 2003
23) Editha M. Ortega	Blk 23 Lot 22 Molino Homes II, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Lenny Z. Ortega SS # 03-0678220-0	September 22, 2001
24) Avelina Beliran	Blk 4 Lot 19 L. Lupa, Calocan City	Antonio Ocampo SS # 03-0786073-6	April 17, 2003
25) Leila Laruya	Unknown	Isidro Paleg, Jr. SS # 03-634567-4	November 9, 2002
26) Demerna Plarisan	Unknown	Francisco C. Plarisan SS # 06-1075101-1	November 22, 2002
27) Teresita Dullete Rosalinda B. Sison	Unknown	Enrique B. Sison SS # 03-3625116-7	October 9, 2002
28) Milla M. Ternal	Unknown	Romualdo B. Ternal SS # 03-4709472-4	July 7, 2003
29) Virginia Lim Varona	Unknown	Lilove L. Varona SS # 07-1022570-6	April 20, 2003
30) Feliciano Venia	Unknown	Pilar G. Venia SS # 03-3916533-1	June 17, 2000

(PDI - Sept 13 2003)



National Power Corporation

September 1, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation (NPC) of the Republic of the Philippines invites all registered Steam Coal Suppliers/Producers, foreign and local, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of coal requirements for CY 2004 (Batch 1).

The complete sets of eligibility requirements/bidding documents are available for issuance at the Office of the Bids and Contract Services Department (BCSD), NPC-OB, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel/Fax No. 924-5361/922-1622, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Registered prospective bidders shall be evaluated as to eligibility based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility requirements/tender documents.

The requirements are tabulated hereunder.
CY 2004 (Batch 1)

OPEN TENDER

Schedule	Plant	Vol. (MT)	Approved Budget for The Contract (ABC)*	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Eligibility Docs/Bids (E-bidding)
SC1-CY04 (0903)	SCFTTP	5 x 65,000	US \$10,903,750	Oct 3, 2003 10:00 AM	Oct 21, 2003 9:30 AM
MC1-CY04 (0903)	MCFTTP	5 x 65,000		Monones Rm. Solanum	Monones Rm. Solanum
PC1-CY04 (Blonding, Low Sulfur)	PCFTTP	5 x 65,000	US \$10,153,000	Oct 3, 2003 10:00 AM	Oct 22, 2003 9:30 AM
				Monones Rm. Solanum	Monones Rm. Solanum

* - Load Tolerance not included

The Contracts Award Committee (CAC), NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids, at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

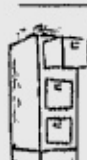
Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
SVP, ME & TMS and
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Sept 12 & 13 2003)

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OBITUARIES

The family of the late
CARMEN LIMON
ALFREDO

who peacefully joined our Lord
 on August 30, 2003 at the age of 80.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends
 that her body lies in state at #03 Del Pilar St.,
 Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Her loved ones request the pious readers
 to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on September 16, 2003
 at Malasimba Memorial Park, Mass will be
 held at St. John Parish Church at 2:00 p.m.

MR. CARLITO
MAGLALANG-CABILANGAN

PET Plans, Inc. - Central Luzon,
 Loving husband of CHED Director, Dr. Perlita N. Cabilangan

Peacefully joined our Creator
 on September 11, 2003 at the age of 65.

His remains lie in state at #1 Richmond 2 Subd., City
 of San Ido, Pangasinan (in front of New Era University).

Interment will be on Sept. 16, 2003, 3 p.m. at the
 IJ Retiro Memorial Gardens, Dau, Marikina, (in front
 of Feliciano Colleges, near Dau Expressway).

On the First Anniversary of his entry
 to eternal life,
 We, the family of the late

LEONARDO ZAVALLA TIONGCO

May 7, 1905 – September 14, 2002

would like to request you to say a prayer
 for the repose of his soul.

A memorial Mass will be held
 on Saturday, September 13, 2003
 at 3:00 p.m. at the new interment site
 located at the Willow Court Garden
 Estates, Manila Memorial Park,
 Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved

Ma. Rosario Puzon-Mabanag
"Che"

Peacefully joined her Creator and father Manning
 on September 11, 2003 at the age of 28.

Her loving husband Nan; mother Linda; sister and
 brothers Allen, Andrew and Buboy and in-laws Gogie, Bam
 and Bel; nieces Bianca, Bea, Camille and Dayna and relatives
 request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Sanctuario de San Jose, East
 Greenhills.

The Mass will be offered on Tuesday, 16 September
 2003 at the Nuestra Señora del Pilar Parish Church,
 Alaminos, Laguna.

Interment follows immediately at the Alaminos
 Cemetery, Alaminos, Laguna.

"The golden moments in the stream of life rush
 past us and we see nothing but sand:
 'The angels come visit us and we only know them
 when they are gone.'"

George Eliot

So deeply missed... lovingly remembered

Rogelio 'Jojo' M. Samonteza, Jr.

APO-Pi Chapter - UST - 1984
 March 1, 1968 - September 13, 1993

With love

Daddy ROGER, Mommy MILA,
 sisters ALMA, MYLA & MHLGRACE,
 brother-in-law SAMMY,
 nephews JEROME & JASON,
 niece PAULINE and friend CHERRY.

Rev. Fr. Ramon Delphin Fuentes

Peacefully joined his Creator on 11 September 2003
 at the age of 78

His sisters, EXUPERANCIA and Atty. Pablo Ronquillo, FILOMENA(+),
 SR. CONSUELO(+), brothers REV. FR. RUPERTO(+), EDILBERTO(+),
 nephews, nieces, grandchildren & relatives request pious readers to pray for
 the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 2, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel,
 Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on Sunday,
 Sept. 14, 2003 after the 12pm Mass

"When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages,
 cloth for me, Let me hide myself in Thee."

IN LOVING MEMORY
 on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

MARIA THERESA
ESPINO BLANKENHORN

who passed away on September 13, 2001
 at San Francisco U.S.A.

Holy Masses will be offered today September 13, 2003 at the following churches:

St. Andrew Parish	6:00 PM
San Miguel, Makati City	
St. James the Great Parish ..	5:30 PM
Ayala, Alabang	
St. Peter and Paul	6:30 PM
Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	
St. Ignatius Cathedral	6:00 PM
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	
Mary the Queen Parish	6:00 PM
North Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	

Her husband Ron Blankenhorn, her daughter Rhoni, her parents Gen. Romeo C.
 Espino (+) and Helen Hansen Espino, brothers Leslie, Rafael, Ricardo and sister
 Lanie request her relatives, friends and classmates to remember her in their prayers.

Rosario Itchon Sancho

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 21, 2003 at the age of 76.
 in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Her loving husband RAYMUNDO (+); children REBECCA, ROWENA,
 ROSEANNA, RUBY, REMEDIOS, MARIA ROSARIO, RAFAEL and
 REGINA THERESA; children-in-law ALBERTO TORRES, ENRIQUE
 ABREU, MANOLO HERRERA, THERESA ACOSTA and ISAAC DAVID
 AMPIL II; grandchildren KATHLYN, EDRIC, JOE, CHUCK, KATRINA,
 FRANCIS, CARMELA, RAYA, MICHAEL and ANGEL, surviving siblings,
 JOVITA DIAZ and DOMINGO ITCHON and other relatives request the pious
 readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A mass to celebrate her birth to eternal life was held last August 25, 2003 at the
 Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church in Mississauga. Interment was held, after cremation
 of her mortal remains, last August 26, 2003 at the Assumption Cemetery,
 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Ma. Coraxon "Naina" Leido-Isip

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 9, 2003 at the age of 38.

Her beloved husband Raymond Marvin; children Ma. Katherine Camille, Ma. Francine
 Krisela & Ma. Sofia Filomena; parents Vicente P. Leido Jr. & Filomena Asi; brothers Butch
 & Nedie, Rod; sister Myra & Ricky, and Tina; parents-in-law Fidel Isip, Jr. & Ma. Paz
 Enriquez; in-laws Rowena & Edward, Margie & Mike, Charlie & Sarah, Noel & Lizette,
 and Kristine; Tita Lily Ylagan; nephews, nieces, other relatives & friends request the readers to
 pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City

Interment today, September 13, 2003 at the Garden of Assumption, Loyola Memorial Park,
 Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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Bituin Escalante
joins acoustic jive at
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The concert, which will be held at Casino
 Filipino-Parañaque's Maharlika Lounge on
 September 17, 2003, presents the enchanting
 music of Acoustic Jive, with vocalist May Bayot,
 and multi-talented female singer Bituin Escalante
 in an unforgettable night that is sure to thrill
 acoustic enthusiasts and fans of Original Pilipino
 Music (OPM).

Acoustic Jive, headed by lead singer May
 Bayot, has established a reputation as one of the
 most sought-after ensembles in local music
 venues. By fusing elements of jazz, pop, blues and
 reggae, the band promises to dish out acoustic
 renditions of some of today's most popular hits.

Joining them onstage for a special participation
 is Bituin Escalante. Touted as one of today's
 upcoming divas, Bituin has consistently proven
 herself in terms of musical artistry, signature vocal
 prowess and dynamic performance.

Join them for an unforgettable acoustic evening
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Australia may soon accept RP pineapples

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES could soon begin exporting fresh pineapples to Australia after its government said that it would allow local fruits to be fumigated at its port in Canberra.

Bureau of Plant Industry's chief quarantine for Philippine trade Larry Lacson said this was a welcome development as the Australian government earlier insisted that Philippine pineapples be fumigated prior to their shipment to Australia.

Australia requires exporting countries to fumigate their fruits to

rid these of surface insects and to prolong the shelf life.

Lacson also noted that Australia now accepted de-crowned pineapples.

"It would now depend on the marketing strategy that we would employ to sell our de-crowned pineapples as other countries like Thailand and the Solomon Islands are doing the same. They market them as 'topless' pineapples," Lacson told the INQUIRER.

Lacson, however, said that the fate of Philippine bananas remained uncertain. Australia has barred the

entry of Philippine bananas on grounds that these would damage Australia's banana plantations.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano said in a separate interview, however, that there are enough grounds for the Philippines to file a case against Australia before the World Trade Organization and force it to open its market to local bananas.

"We could hold them accountable for prohibiting or restricting the entry of products from the Philippines without basis," Serrano said.

to argue before the WTO after bilateral talks held last year failed.

Australia blocked the entry of Philippine fruits saying that local fruits failed to comply with its phytosanitary standards. The Philippines, however, was not convinced.

"We remain unconvinced by their explanation. When we evaluate their submission in detail we opt to consult with them again to further clarify certain issues," Serrano said.

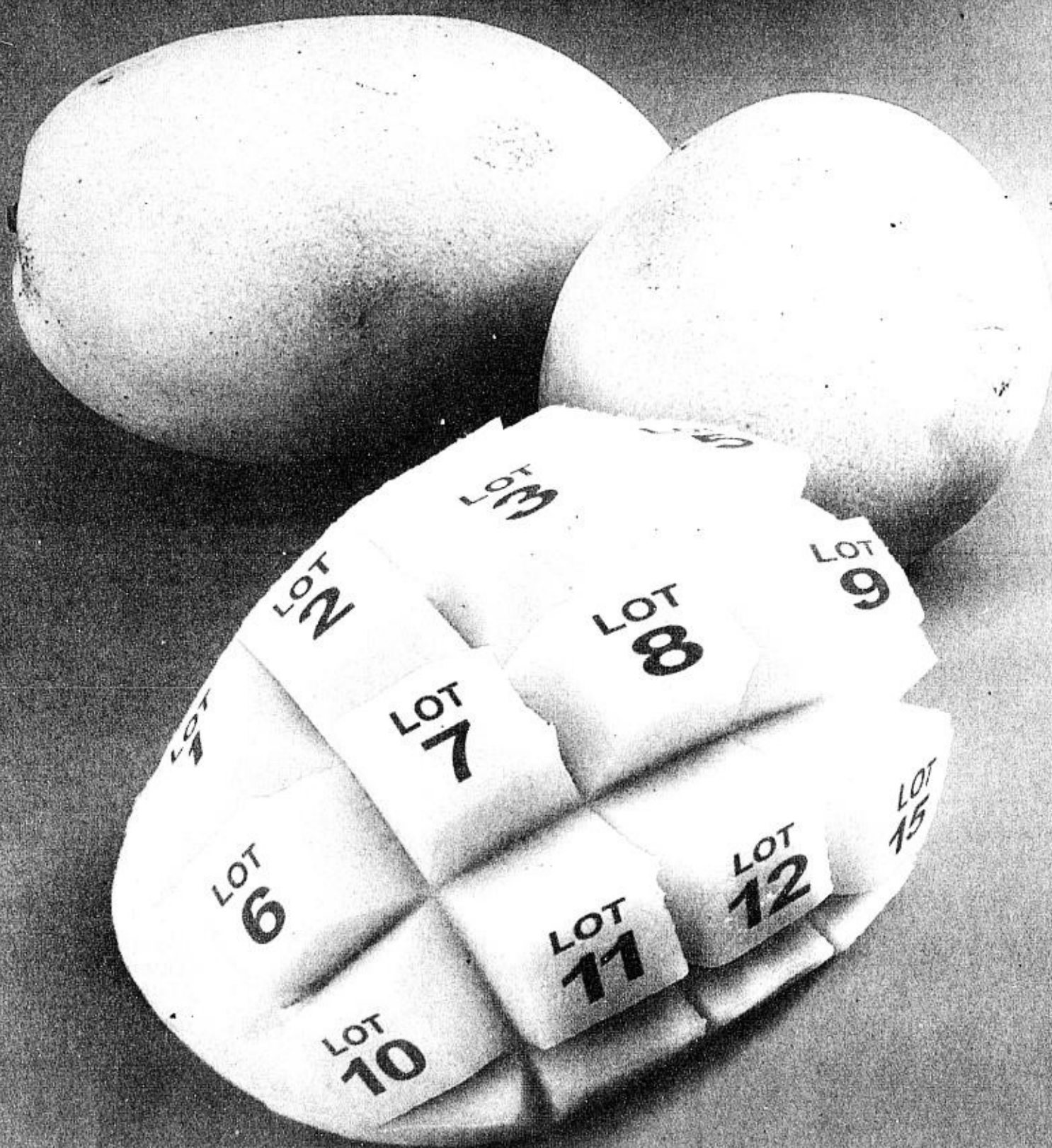
The first round of bilateral talks were held at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland



THE AGRICULTURE Department says Australia has softened its stance against RP pineapples.

with the European Union and Thailand as observers.

tween opposing countries is required before a case can be filed before the WTO.



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A cycle of giving and taking

By Marge C. Enriquez

The measure of true wealth is sustainable happiness; its test is stability in crisis

FROM the vast ocean, water is condensed into clouds and becomes rain, falling to the earth and back to the waters again. All the elements of nature are exchanging energies to bring rainfall to nourish the earth. Then the recurrence of vapor, cloud formation and rain is repeated.

This is the imagery of true wealth, a cycle of giving and taking, according to Indian journalist and lecturer Brij Mohan.

We don't have to drive a Lexus, live in Forbes Park, take a yearly sabbatical to London or Paris, and own a Bvlgari collection to be wealthy. We may be riding the MRT seated beside one of the richest persons in the world who's clad in local brands, resides in Cubao and wears a permanent smile on the face.

We live in a time when traditional concepts and values are being questioned. Time will come when they will no longer be valid. For instance, intellectual accomplishment, fat bank accounts, influential connections, credentials, luxurious possessions, name and fame, fabulous homes, and social status as criteria for affluence are fast becoming sooooo 20th century.

"There are situations in which affluence doesn't help at all," says Mohan. "For instance, when a person falls ill, meets an accident or a tragedy, suffers a heartbreak, or is mired in family problems—money, position, or possessions will not help." Thus, the song, "Money can't buy everything." Emotional stability and physical and mental health should also be considered wealth.

Mohan points out that individuals and corporations are broadening their definition of wealth by performing charity and philanthropy.

"Goodwill matters to them. They

have become service-oriented because it helps widen their circle of influence. Goodwill is a positive quality of service. They have come to realize that good wishes and blessings from many people is also wealth," says Mohan.

Detachment

He points out that it is the inner richness of a soul that makes a person wealthy. One criteria for wealth is wisdom, as symbolized by the Indian goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi, who is portrayed sitting on a lotus throne. The lotus is a symbol of detachment.

Mohan explains: "To be truly wealthy is to be detached from that wealth, and to regard it instead with a sense of trusteeship. Whatever is bestowed upon me is not meant for me alone. Otherwise it will give me sorrow. There is a saying, 'A contented beggar is like a king and a greedy king is like a beggar.' If you have wealth but don't appreciate its noble purpose or how to use it properly, in a worthwhile way, then problems come."

Time is a valuable commodity that not even dollars and diamonds can buy. When time is wasted, you can never recover it, says Mohan.

Another criteria for wealth is sustainable happiness. Mohan distinguishes real happiness from pleasure derived from satisfying the sense organs. Happiness leads to bliss, he says, which is a deeper state of being. If one lives harmoniously with others without selfish motives, one's spiritual enrichment will travel back like a cycle. The understanding of doing good empowers one to give the most profound joy from the heart today, knowing that such sublimity will be mirrored back tomorrow.

"A person can beget blessings from others through his good qualities such as cooperation, sharing, compassion and mercy," says Mohan.

Stability in crisis is the test of wealth, he maintains. "Tolerance and the power to adjust are important components of true wealth."

To illustrate, Mohan uses the example of a fruit-laden tree. When a vandal throws a stone at it, the tree responds with an offering of its harvest. The vandal then eats the fruit and learns to value the tree. This imagery shows that a person, who is filled with positive qualities, will be able to respond creatively and with strength, even when the stones of difficult situations are hurled at him.

Sometimes tolerance is not enough, though. We also need the power to face ominous realities. We are intimidated by fear of our own reactions, or of fear itself. A clear and honest heart gives us faith and courage to stand up for what is right.

"If you remove such negativities like ego, greed, attachment, anger and desire, you will be able to share," Mohan says. "Everything around you is meant for others. Nothing is meant for the self alone. Humans, by nature, should work for others. In the process, the person gets served. The Law of Karma (cause and effect) states that if you invest now, you will get your return in the future. To be wealthy means to understand that I have to give, and in the process of giving, I will get. If I limit my attitude to getting (or acquisition), then I may be affluent but not wealthy internally."

A person becomes rich only if what he has benefited many, says Mohan: "The ability to serve is the ability to be wealthy."

Timely and appropriate

Reader Josephine Hermano wrote:

"Your three editorials 'Narcissism,' 'Core Values,' and 'Dancing in the Light, Finding Some Answers' A CYCLE/C3



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Photos by Chito Vecina • Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

Fred and the dancers

By Marge C. Enriquez

Without this devoted patron, Lisa Macuja says, her Ballet Manila would be 'left with so little'



ONCE a breakaway company from the Philippine Ballet Theater, Ballet Manila, which Lisa Macuja founded in 1995, has come into its own, thanks to the patronage of old wealth.

Her husband Fred J. Elizalde has one hobby that only a handful can indulge in: philanthropy.

The Elizaldes started out from a trading post in Manila Bay in 1854. They branched out into other business such as shipping, sugar milling, paint and oil, mining, rope, wine and liquor, steel, and tin plates. They were the first in the history of mining to ship Philippine ore to Japan and established the first Filipino insurance company. They earned a name in labor-intensive industries that provided jobs in places where the family had interests.

Fred Elizalde was entrenched in power during the Marcos era. When President Marcos needed coordination between the government and private sectors, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine Chamber of Industries were merged. For the longest time, Elizalde was president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Today he is chair of the FJE Group of Companies, whose main interests are radio and amusement. The businesses include Manila Broadcasting Company, the Philcite, Star Parks Corp. and some properties in Boracay.

During their courtship, Fred would follow Lisa to Boracay, where her family used to spend holidays. He had not visited the island for over a decade. The fruit of that pursuit was the development of properties that he bought long ago, when the island was still virgin territory. Today, the most popular destination there is their D'Mall D'Boracay.

Another offshoot of their relationship was his involvement in the performing arts. Since their marriage, Ballet Manila has grown considerably. The company staged more than 40 shows in 1995, before Lisa met Fred. Last year, it scored a total of 512 shows, with all those combined tours, concerts and

theme park entertainment.

Thanks to Elizalde's largesse, the company now has its own office, two studios and a school in the Elizalde compound in Pasay. It is able to send dancers to compete in international competitions. Aside from a regular season of classics and new works, it holds a Ballet and Ballads series, concert mounted in partnership with MBC, which combines classical dancing with pop music. Circus de Ballet provides entertainment for the Star City theme park.

Well-earned

Elizalde also became involved in "CanCan" and "Belen" for Star City, up to selecting the scores and designing the sets. Performing several shows a day, the dancers earn enough for some to even buy cars and rent condominiums, with just a little help from the bank.

Lisa stresses that the comforts are well-earned. Last Christmas day, for instance, BM did 10 shows of "CanCan."

"It's not easy; you're on pointe shoes and your feet swell. I've done it out of love," says Lisa. "I was telling Fred, I'm so glad I established BM before I met you. If we started dating when I was still in PBT and was thinking of starting my own company, my decision would be affected by your presence in my life."

Much has been buzzed about Elizalde's strong and demanding personality, so characteristic of a Leo. But he always manages to pull it off with flair, and with his deep-seated generosity. This explains why his employees are very forgiving of his idiosyncracies and have remained loyal to him for decades.

Lisa acknowledges his valuable contribution to the dance scene: "Without Fred's generosity, I'd be the first to admit, BM would not be as big or as prolific as we are today. As it is, the atmosphere is so creative. I don't have to beg, scrape or scrounge to put up a 'Swan Lake.'"

Ballet Manila's monthly subsidy for operations

and honoraria come from Elizalde's personal account. But the company still has to work within a budget. Lisa says they still work to sell tickets and solicit corporate sponsorships. The "Ballet Manila at the Park" series also receives regular support from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

Gift of love

Fred made news in the arts circle when he gifted Lisa with the 850-seat Star Theater in 2001, and the 2,750-capacity Aliw Theater in 2002.

Until then, BM's season performances were staged at the GSIS Theater, whose location was inaccessible to the mass-based audiences. When BM mounted "Romeo and Juliet" with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Lisa had to contend with additional expense and all the bureaucratic procedures encountered by a lessee.

After that, Elizalde decided: "Let's build our own theater."

"Star Theater was a gift for me and my company. We can do our thing without the red tape and extra expense. But it has also worked very well for the park. Attendance has increased by 50 percent since Star and Aliw Theaters opened," says Lisa.

Like DisneyWorld, Star City provides free shows aside from the rides. Ticketholders of "Swan Lake" are also entitled to park rides.

Aliw Theater, which is adjacent to CCP, is not only an alternative performing space. It is positioning itself as a venue for foreign acts such as Sergio Mendes and Stephen Bishop. It has been a family tradition for the Elizaldes to spend the holidays in London, where they watch several shows in one day. Fred has always been fascinated with the stage. He designed the white ark-shaped Aliw—a cross between a Gaudi structure and a Disney castle, with a Greek amphitheater formation.

As a testament to their collaboration, Elizalde

produced a coffee-table book, "Marriage of Two Arts," which they gave away for Christmas. It features 75 of his paintings and 75 of Lisa's performance photographs from her days at the Kirov.

When she's not fulfilling her duties at Ballet Manila, Lisa spends weekends in Boracay, attends PTA meetings at the International School, or performs for the Catholic Women's League, or just stays home.

Indulgences

Extravagant is the last thing she is, despite her status. For this interview, Lisa is clad in her trademark sleeveless shirt, slacks and mules. Her hair is pulled back in a ponytail, showing off black pearl earrings.

"Fred's accountant will be the first to confirm that I'm not an 'expensive' wife," she says. "I don't buy \$500 dresses everyday. Abroad, I'd probably go to Calvin Klein or some designer store and buy a few pieces. But that would be my wardrobe for the next 10 years."

Her indulgence is ordering 30 pairs of \$60 pointe shoes at a time. But what is that compared with \$500 per pair of Manolos? She would rather splurge on her children by shopping for toys and clothes, and throwing big parties.

Asked if she has kept her 22-inch waistline, she replies, "It's 24 (now). I have two kids. Give me a break!" She looks trim, nonetheless, as she girds for two-weekend shows of "Swan Lake" at Aliw.

Says Lisa: "If you remove Fred and his resources, Ballet Manila will be left with so little. Even if we have the talent, the guts and the 'rebel streak,' the foundation of art is different. An artist with a sponsor can be more creative and productive than a struggling artist. That I'm not, though I used to be."

(Ballet Manila will present "Swan Lake" on Sept. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at Aliw Theater. For details call 525-1854.)

British hairdresser
Geoff Simpson
considers this country
his home now, in spite
of peculiar business
practices and
intermittent gossip

Privé in the Philippines

ASK Geoff Simpson, how many liposuctions he's had, and the British hairdresser will answer truthfully, readily: "Four." He's probably the only one in town who will do that.

After losing 30 pounds and whittling down his waist to 29 inches, Simpson looks much younger than his 41 years.

Asked how he lost weight aside from the cosmetic enhancement, he's likely to say, by "gymming like a maniac" and coping with the complexities of doing business in the Philippines.

Despite being misunderstood and bashed by an intrigue-laden industry, he has managed to keep his feet on the ground.

Simpson comes from a well-to-do family in London. He started apprenticeship as a hairdresser at age 15 and became a professional at 19. He worked in Germany, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, where he met Australian hairdresser Rodger Craig. The latter urged Simpson to establish a franchise of Rodger Craig International at the basement of the Peninsula Manila in 1993.

At that time in Manila, Simpson recalls, these establishments were still called beauty parlors. Except for the foreign hairdressers and a few Filipinos trained abroad, most practitioners had no formal edu-

cation in precision haircutting, or in the science of perming and coloring. Simpson says even class-A establishments did not offer comprehensive training programs for hairstylists. Salaries were abysmal. The range of professional products was extremely limited.

Wake-up call

Even so, Simpson has only praise for the resourcefulness of the Filipinos he encountered then. "They made the most out of the situation. They didn't have the benefit of books, and fashion magazines were late. The ability was there, but there were no teachers. It was mostly guesswork."

Simpson gave the industry a wake-up call by training the staffers, upping the price of services, overhauling the salary scale, and initiating the commission incentive for hairdressers who brought in more clients.

"I'm not saying I am better than local hairdressers," Simpson says. "I learn a lot from my stylists. There are dozens of brilliant ones here. They just lack marketing know-how and, sometimes, imagination.



PRIVÉ/C3

SHEER sensuous pleasure is a service at the flagship.

ÉLAN Privé

From page C2

They are good artists, but not businessmen. I have to take them by the hand. I've always said, a good haircut can be had anywhere. But we're talking of service. For instance, no one wants to sit in a chair with a clump of hair around it, or in a place that's too hot. These days there are many places that charge X amount for a cut ... obviously for an air-conditioned salon with gilded furniture, one has to pay more. But where they used to earn no more than P10,000 a month, now, suddenly, hairdressers are making P35,000 a month."

Simpson has also played a big part in bringing a wide range of colors, shampoos, and styling products into the country. Among the coloring methods, many clients took quickly to highlights. Simpson introduced the foil method, in which some sections of the hair are colored subtly. To this day, he is arguably the fastest and most precise when it comes to this technique.

But he readily puts Filipino colleagues on equal footing. He is proud to have worked with the pioneers of Rodger Craig International, who are now celebrity hairdressers themselves—Angelo Justin, Jing Monis, and Crispin and Lucy Britannico.

Identity crisis

After five years at Rodger Craig International, Simpson got weary of the daily grind. He also suffered an identity crisis of sorts. While to his clients he was a darling, to the industry he was both admired for his expertise and misunderstood for his pragmatic approach to business. And strangers would mistake him for Rodger Craig himself.

During Simpson's time, the salon was raking in seven figures a month. But sales dropped to a fifth of this when Simpson and a few other hairdressers left to pursue better oppor-

tunities. Salon business is extremely dependent on the trust between hairdresser and client.

A group offered to open a salon in another hotel, dangling incentives that matched Simpson's package at RCI. Tongues wagged about his perks, to boot, including a house in a plush subdivision and a car.

"It's not up to me to negotiate a deal," he says of that offer. "Businessmen are not stupid; we sit down and work out how to get the money back in."

In any case, his stint at the new salon was short-lived. He moved to another salon in Metro South, where he stayed for a few years. He says he'd rather not go public about the intrigues he had to face within this period, mostly regarding the peculiar way of doing business in the Philippines.

Eventually, he found partners with whom to start Privé (French for "private," or by appointment only), with the flagship salon at the 29th Floor of Fraser Place in Salcedo Village, Makati. The drawing room is furnished in neoclassic style. Simpson, an artist at heart, explains: "I wanted an environment that spelled total luxury. I like pampering people."

Elite group

In Manila, he observes, "color is more popular as a vanity rather than as fashion." And the difference is? "Vanity is covering up the greys; fashion is when you don't care about the greys, you want red bits in your hair, something funky."

Aside from the hair treatments that come with a bottle of wine and a shoulder rub, Privé offers massages and body care treatments.

Simpson's clients, some who have been going to him since his first week in Manila, seek his personal services. Although he has remained low-profile, he usually has a wait list of 65.

A member of the Haute Coiffure

Française, he flies to Paris twice a year to be updated on hair trends. Membership in this elite group is by invitation only.

"My clients are all I care about in this industry," he says. "As for the whole caboodle out there, I have no interest in gossip. The less I have to deal with it, the better."

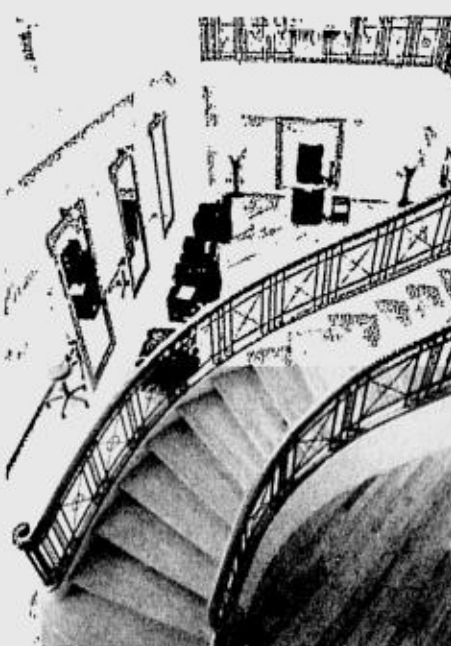
Curiously, some hairdressers who once bad-mouthed Simpson ended up working with him. "If they are good hairdressers, why not?" he shrugs. "I'm not a vindictive person. I don't need to make noise for five minutes of fame; I've had 10 years of fame."

Like a tree whose roots have deeply penetrated the earth, Simpson has a firm control of his life, and a practical outlook in his business. He attributes this to spirituality—and not just because he was raised a Buddhist by his grandparents.

Simpson says the Philippines is his home now: "I've been in a relationship with a Filipino for six years. I consider his family as my in-laws. I have everything I want here."

Marge C. Enriquez

(The Fraser Place's "Rainy Day Package" offers savings on a choice of one- to four-bedroom suites bundled with a complimentary breakfast, a Fraser umbrella, use of the gym, swimming pool and game room, gift packs for the kids, covered parking slot, shuttle service to Makati's business and commercial centers, plus Rustan's discount vouchers. Try the "Weekend Make-Over." Check into a two- or three-bedroom suite and let Geoff Simpson's Privé Salon spoil you with a 40 percent discount on body massage and body scrub, hair tint, celophane, relaxing, rebonding, hot oil, perm and highlights. Call Sales and Marketing, tel. 818-1000, fax 818-2000, or email: dos@fraserhospitality.com.ph.)



PRIVÉ Salon. Where gilt furniture and prodigious space are not luxuries but necessities for good business.



GEOFF SIMPSON has endured competition, obstacles and opposition.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

C3

De-fuzz naturally

BODY Natur (na-toor), from Viokox, Spain is the only depilatory product line approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Body Natur makes it easier for women and men to get rid of unwanted body hair, having come up with various products to address the needs of each body area.

Its Cera Fria Corporal and Facial (Cold Wax) consists of ready-to-use depilatories in strip form. It is recommended for legs, arms, upper lip, face bikini line and heat-sensitive skin, or areas with wide and flat surfaces.

The Cera Virgen/Cera Clorofilada (Depilatory Wax Perles) is ideal for underarms, body and face. This is formulated to melt at a lower temperature so you don't get burnt skin.

As introduction, Body Natur offers a complete waxing kit available only in the Philippines. It includes 250 grams of Cera Virgen or Clorofilada Wax Perles, a wax warmer, wax pan, wooden spatula and instructional guide.

For immediate waxing needs especially during travel, Crema Depilatoria (Depilatory Cream) is fast and effective.

Visit www.bloomingfields.net, or email body-natur@bloomingfields.net for more information.

A cycle... From page C1

were timely and appropriate.

They also inspire those who desire—and are able—to instill values in the so-called 'lifestyle phenomenon' that plagues our society today.

When ÉLAN was launched, the cynic in me judged this PDI section as just another gimmick to attract more advertising revenue and feature 'left-to-right brigades.' Sour grapes? Thank you for 'uplifting' our souls."

Any new idea tends to be resisted until people get used to it, and then it becomes mainstream. ÉLAN's slightly off-the-beaten track format was met with some reluctance by people whose idea of lifestyle reportage was the "conventional approach." Fortunately for all of us here, as well as the readers, the "inspirational" essay is an idea whose time has come. ÉLAN has been well-received by people from all walks of life, not on account of any formula, but simply because the pages come alive with our enthusiasm.

For feedback write to menriquez@inquirer.com.ph

SHISEIDO
The Make up

Electrify.

Activate in a moment. Empower eyes with Advanced Volume Mascara and Creamy Eye Shadow Duo.

NEW PRODUCTS FROM SHISEIDO THE MAKE-UP AUTUMN/WINTER 2003 COLLECTION

This season, the concept of Empowered Beauty takes on a new focus as *Shiseido the Make-up* introduces its *Autumn/Winter 2003* collection aptly called *Electrify*.

Electrify highlights the bold personality of a woman whose unmistakable image and character ignite everything she does. *Shiseido* invites you to tap into the uniqueness and the strength that lie within.



Creamy Eye Shadow Duos in 6 new shades

Consisting of intriguingly paired shades that play off each other's sparkling undertones, the new *Creamy Eye Shadow Duos* make eyes flicker with color. Dark shades paired with a flash of color combine to heighten the beauty of each. The lightweight creams wear well on lids and do not crease or fade.



Advanced Volume Mascara for thick lashes, and an intensely dramatic look

Shiseido's two new *mascaras* give lashes new depth and color intensity. *Advanced Volume Mascara* delivers thick lashes for an intensely dramatic look. The *Extra Length Mascara* contains long lash fibers for the longest lash effect.



Three new Lip Gloss shades: Apricot Nectar, Bare Berry, and Lavender Loud

Featuring ripe, neon-lit tones in a luminous transparent base, these three new *Lip Gloss* shades make mouths positively flash. The shades are designed to radiate pure light.

The new *Corrective Concealers* comprise of a duo of deeper and lighter toned concealing creams, plus a setting powder that enables women to achieve professional makeup results. The translucent setting powder prevents creasing and smudging for a long lasting look.

Shiseido The Make up is available at Shiseido Beauty Institute Glorietta 4, Shiseido Beauty Institute Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, Landmark, and Watson's The Podium.

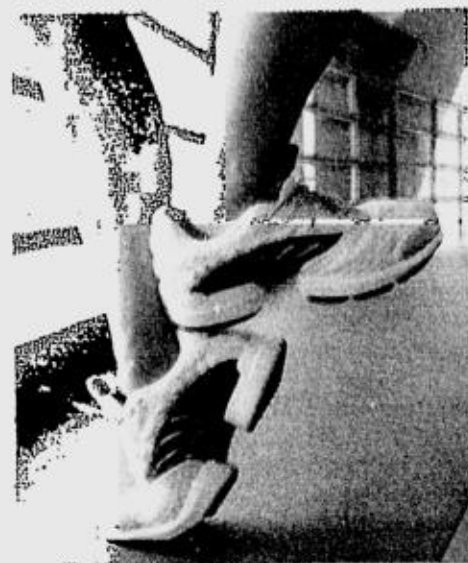


Free 7-piece gift set and make-up pouch for every P5,000 purchase with at least one make-up product from the 2003 Autumn/Winter Collection

Shiseido Beauty Institute Glorietta 4, Shiseido Beauty Institute Power Plant Mall, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, The Landmark, Watson's The Podium

DOH-BFAD Permit No.:0854 series of 2003

NEW ClimaCool shoes keep your feet dry but don't wear them on wet ground.



COOL AID

NO SWEAT, says US-based dancer Grethel Domingo, who is in ClimaLite clothes and a³ running shoes.

Staying true to its cutting-edge ways, Adidas has launched a line of apparel that addresses the sticky problem of perspiration

By Martin P. Valdes
Contributor

THE HUMAN body is a wondrous construct. A mechanism of flesh and bones that surpasses anything invented in terms of sheer complexity, it manages to perform tasks of compound natures so efficiently, we tend to take these actions for granted. And while modern-day automatons utilize the brute-force of technology to an amazing extent, the human body is still the master of spontaneous innovative action. Sure it looks snazzy and it can climb the heck out of stairs, but I'd like to see (Honda's) Asimo pick up a woman on a Saturday night.

But the human body is a machine that needs to be maintained, and the current trend in athletics and physical activity is a direct response to that awareness. More than ever, people are engaging in sport and its derivations in the hopes of sculpting their buttocks, moderating their heart rates, lengthening their lives by another day. And, boy, are they sweating.

Adidas has ever been at the forefront of athletic excursion, its history steeped in equal amounts of perspiration and inspiration. In 1925, a small German village with the unfortunate name of Herzogenaurach became the birthplace of the now famous triple stripe. Adolf "Adi" Dassler (lucky he wasn't nicknamed Hugh or Stooppy) created Adidas after realizing the need for performance athletic shoes. The company started humbly, producing soccer cleats and running shoes, but quickly expanded to include apparel and sports equipment. Adidas is currently the largest supplier of athletic shoes in Europe and ranks second worldwide. It is also one of the hippest brands to accessorize, the trefoil (flower) logo a very recognizable classic. Imagine that, I used "hip" and "German" in the same paragraph!

ClimaCool and the Gang

Staying true to the company's cutting-edge ways, Adidas has launched a line of apparel that addresses the sticky problem of perspiration. Sweat is a necessary physiological response that allows the human body, mammals that we are, to regulate its temperature. The more physical activity we engage in, the more our body temperature rises, the more we perspire. While this is a good and natural reaction—if we didn't sweat we'd implode or suffer heart attacks every time the air-conditioner conked—it introduces the situation of having wet clothes on. For serious athletes who hardly have the luxury of breaks between sessions, this can prove not only an inconvenience, but also a hindrance to performance. Imagine David Beckham missing a penalty because "muh undies felt kind o' squishy."

ClimaLite and ClimaCool are at the frontline of the Adidas war on water-rorism. At first I imagined these to be new types of fat-free yoghurt, but upon further testing, I found them to be terrific wear, but quite inedible. Often used interchangeably, they actually refer to two related technologies with specific purposes, sharing the common end goal of keeping the athlete happy.

ClimaLite is a wicking fabric that draws moisture away from the body and spreads it out so that it evaporates faster. This very breathable material optimizes performance by minimizing overheating and energy

loss by keeping the wearer dry and comfortable. Like a Maxi-pad for the body. As of now, ClimaLite technology is available in several Adidas products, from athletic jerseys, shorts, training pants, socks and even sports bras (for the ladies, and for men who need to be loved).

ClimaCool is basically ClimaLite plus a mesh, resulting in a micromesh of sorts. This material wicks moisture even faster to the outside of the body. But the big difference is that ClimaCool ventilates as well, not only allowing moisture to absorb and evaporate, but also keeping body temperature at a comfortable thermal degree, hence the name. The technology is once again available in a wide array of sportswear.

Remarkably, Adidas has managed to assimilate this science into footwear. In fact, ClimaCool is on its second generation in some Adidas shoes, with ClimaCool 2. Specifically engineered materials and components aerate the feet and cause moisture to evaporate faster by moving air across almost every point. Vents in the sides, toes, heels and soles push air into the shoes, allowing them to "breathe." The top of the shoes is constructed with an open-cell foam padding and a sandwich mesh. Their website says the shoes have materials like adi-PRENE and Elastollan, which contribute to further enhancing the shoe performance. In the simplest sense, air flows around the shoe, and through the shoe. Technical jargon aside, the line of shoes featuring the Adidas ClimaCool system is pretty aesthetic as well. ClimaCool 2 Adventure for example, is a snazzy hiking boot sheathed in graphite and crimson hues, with more flair than Cary Grant, if he were a shoe. Made me want to Clima every mountain. This isn't your ordinary, smelly sneaker; it's an air-conditioned spaceship that docks on your foot.

No Sweat

To illustrate just how effective the ClimaCool apparel is, we devised an experiment of Archimedic nature. Two athletes would engage in strenuous physical activity (running if you must know) for a given amount of time under controlled conditions. They would do this in two sets—the first one wearing clothes of normal fabric, and the second one decked out in full ClimaCool gear. The point would be to comparatively measure how much perspiration would be absorbed, and how long it would take to dry each article of clothing after the workout. The results were comprehensive, to say the least. ClimaCool apparel absorbed more moisture and took less time to dry than Brand X, meaning an athlete using Adidas ClimaCool outfits would be relatively drier, and more comfortable, than the athlete who refused to take the Pepsi challenge. Eureka!

Adidas has always been a statement, fashion or athletic. Professional athletes like Zinedine Zidane and Tracy McGrady would never have endorsed them if they hadn't been satisfying, performance-wise. Rap legends Run DMC and the Beastie Boys would never have glamorized them if they weren't glamorous to begin with. The best thing I've ever treated my foot to was an Adidas Samba. Suffice to say, Adidas has always been cool. With this new technology, all they've done is make that sentiment literal.

TRACK and field runners, clad in ClimaLite still look fresh after doing several laps.



FLYING HIGH! Domingo, clad in fire-engine Adidas 2004 track suit and a³ shoes, is one of the 200 subjects exhibited at the National Museum gallery. "Klik: The Art and Science of Photography" will be on view till the end of the month. Participating photographers are Bien Bautista, Sonny Camarillo, Emil Davocol, Jojo Guingona, Patrick Uy, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, et. al.



Love not in every heart

By Georgina Solina
Contributor

ARE men from Mars, and women from Venus? Not anymore.

The planets are telling us that we need to examine ourselves and rediscover the spirit. If we take this as our guide, we will learn to live more peacefully in these troubled times.

A chart cast on Mars orbiting closest to the Sun at 5:51 p.m. on Aug. 27, 2003 brings attention to the male and female energies that affect our lives.

In her glyph or astrological symbol, Venus shows the spirit rising above materialistic concerns and aspiring to return to its source. Mars in his glyph shows the spirit held down by the weight of frustration. Thus, between Venus and Mars, man is torn between opposing energies. He craves the Venusian ideals of peace and harmony, yet his Martian assertiveness makes him an instigator of war. Mars and Venus are heavenly lovers. The former can function effectively only with the latter's cooperation. Balancing Mars and Venus is part of the transition that we are undergoing.

Eros

Most of us are angry at this time due to years of hatred, competition and destruction that have accumulated in our psyche.

With Chiron (the healing planet) in Capricorn (power), there is an obstacle to the quest for balance between success and emotional nurturing.

This may be explained by pointing out the importance of spiritual awareness or self-knowledge, which initiates the process of developing fuller love. In Greek mythology, Eros is the child of Mars and Venus, goddess of love and beauty. Eros, or love in its purest form, is the overflow of altruistic feelings upon all people.

Plato wrote: "Love-Eros makes his home in men's hearts, but not in every heart, for where there is hardness, he departs ... he whom Love touches does not walk in darkness."

Mars is the god of battle, and warrior of the zodiac.

The dawning of a new era has arrived with Uranus ruling Aquarius. However, Chiron in this Mars perihelion (a planet in orbit close to the sun) chart is in a complex position. Beyond indulgence in the good life, the endeavor for success, the desire for approval, the influence of Uranus (transformation) is stirring every soul to look for love, happiness and peace.

However, the Saturnian influence makes the quest externalized, and some may not even be aware of their quest. This is why they miss the spiritual paradox: what we seek (Eros) has been in us all along.

Patience is the key word for those who are under the influence of Chiron in Capricorn, for they never stop believing they will get what they want. When the old success formulas no longer work, they come under the influence of Mars' basal energies—they get angry, frustrated or sick. By the time they wish to conquer the Grim Reaper, Saturn, it has won over those who are unable to let go.

The presence of Chiron in positive aspect to the Moon in the Mars perihelion chart, gives us the chance to see our true selves—the spirit, not matter—thus inciting our innate qualities of love, happiness and peace. We leave them behind when we forget who we are. Mars activates the animus or the male aggressive principle, but aspects to Chiron in the perihelion chart by Sun, Moon, and other planets offer healing of angry men's wounded hearts.

Moon positive to North Node (collective unconscious) shows the powerful presence of God, the source of the spirit. The core of spiritual awareness is the rekindling of our link with the source. Our link with God is the transcendent, zenithal relationship that provides meaning to life.

Aggressors

In the Mars' perigee on Aug. 27, 2003, there is a volatile combination of Mars conjunct Uranus. It is in an attack position, directly opposing Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Venus from the ninth (higher learning) to the third (communication) houses. The alignment of Sun (government), Jupiter (greater fortune) and Venus (lesser fortune) can only bring out the best in the affairs of men. It is the surest sign of success and prosperity in the third house of communications. This union of two beneficial planets promises prosperity and an easy life; for workers, an improvement of living conditions and pleasant vacations.

Despite this optimistic outlook, there are obstacles that get in the way of the country's progress. Mars (aggression) allied with Uranus (sudden change) in opposition to Moon (subconscious mind), Sun (outer world), Jupiter, and Venus creates obstacles through fighting and blazing hostility. This manifests in legal or political battles between the opposition and the incumbent government.

Opposition between Mars and Jupiter shows that often Filipinos appear to be open. But as a rule this attitude only serves their interests. Often their holy crusades are venues for self-promotion. This zeal often makes them embark on ambitious, well-funded projects without the spiritual foundation. Tendencies towards coercion, instead of reason and diplomacy, will create chaos and further drag down our ailing economy. An example is the Oakwood mutiny.

Fortunately, Filipinos are more love-ful than materialistic, on account of their deep faith in God.

Growth and change

As for lifestyles, the landscape is rapidly changing for the heterosexual male. Martin Valdes' article "The Last Temptation of Guys" (ELAN, Aug. 30) sorted out some of the confusions spurred by the gender crisis that are likely to have been triggered by Mars' rare appearance in our skies.

Chiron positive to Sun (body or image) attunes people to metamorphosis and encourages a creative view of the universe. Wrote Martin Valdes in his article, "The Last Temptation of Guys:"

"A straight guy now would shop at designer stores, get a pedicure, discuss Eastern philosophy, order a daiquiri, offer his opinion on women's shoes, admit having wept like a baby when someone close died, and have gay best friends." A heterosexual guy would ask his former religious teachers to go beyond judgement about human behavior as more men are learning lessons in receptivity. Getting in touch with their softer side should not be seen as a weakness nor a feminine inclination. What men admire in other men and women could in fact be a sign of strength and confidence.

It's the same as when Chiron conjuncts Venus in a man's chart, indicating the beginning of spiritual awareness or self-acceptance. This is a stream of energy that transmits everything toward growth and change.

Opposition between Mars and Venus and karmic sexual experiences are a major problem to many Filipinos. Although Chiron trine Venus can develop the most profound understanding of human love, that level of understanding can only come about out of very difficult relationships.

Media favored

Mercury positive to North Node gives the media the skill in understanding prevailing social attitudes, trends and institutions. Consequently, what they communicate gains public acceptance. Politicians who understand the trends and reach the public through the media are favored, as are sociologists.

The public will also acknowledge the role of the astrologers today: to interpret current events and on a personal level, to guide people as they pass through major life changes. The transitions through life present a timetable for us to think about the soul, to comprehend its reality and to live by its truth. In our lives there are cycles marked by Saturn (age 29), Uranus (ages 40-41) and Chiron (50-51) that are critical.

Eros at the point of each transit gives us a wake-up call. It makes us re-open ourselves to revelation. If we do not move with the high-voltage energies of Uranus in Aquarius that expose us to changes at each transit, we can slowly die at these turning points. Those who open themselves up to self-revelation blossom like flowers.

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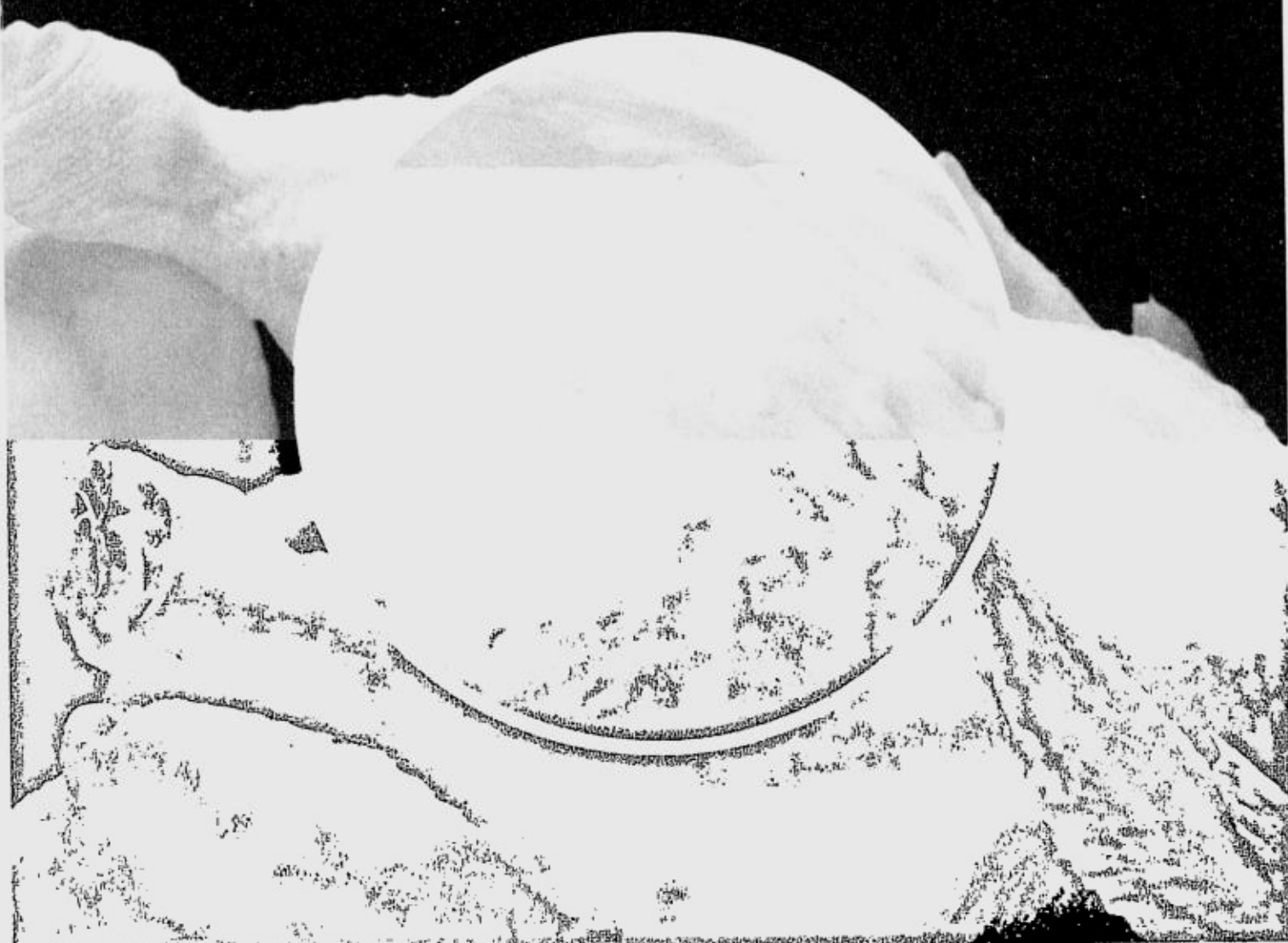


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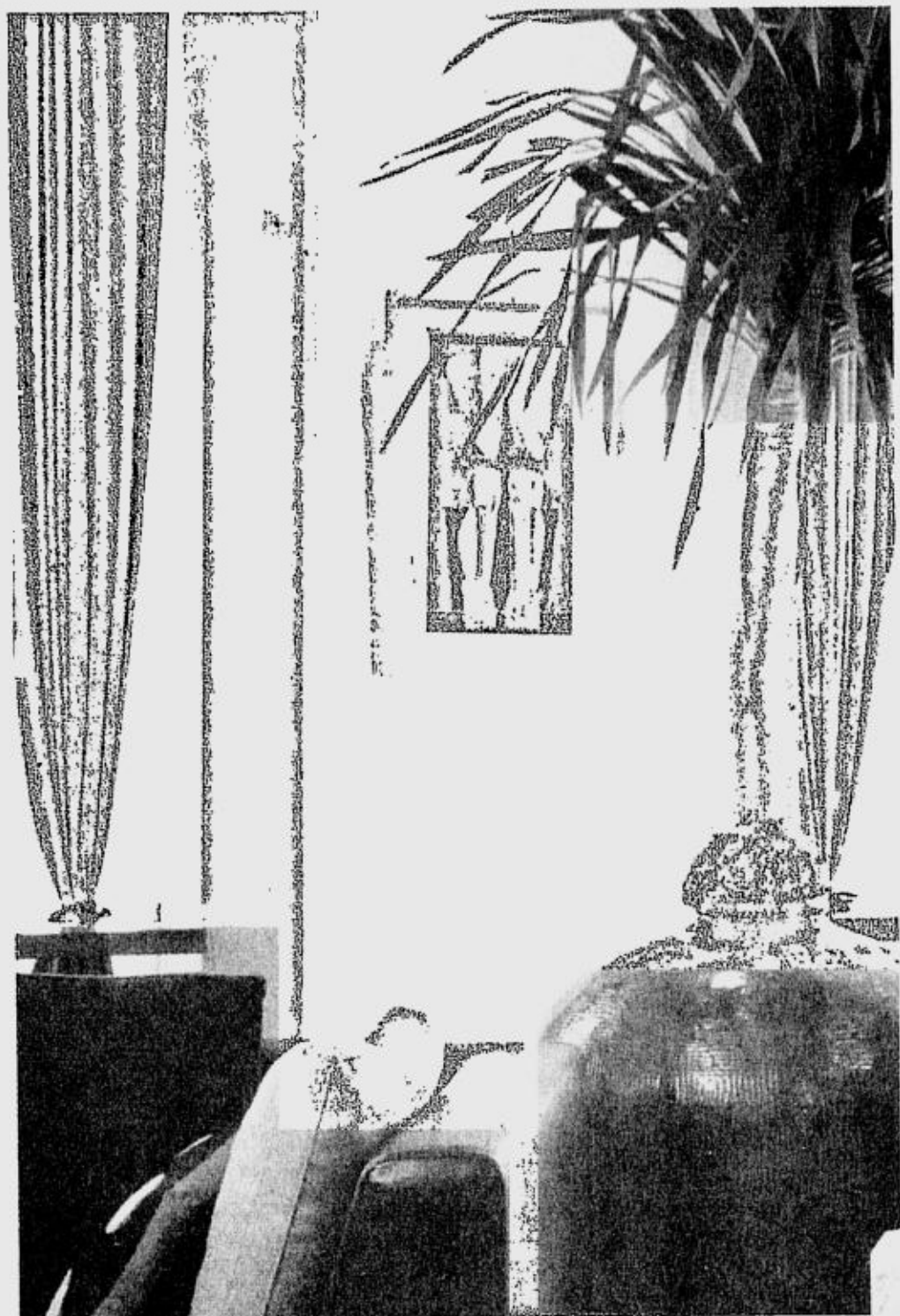
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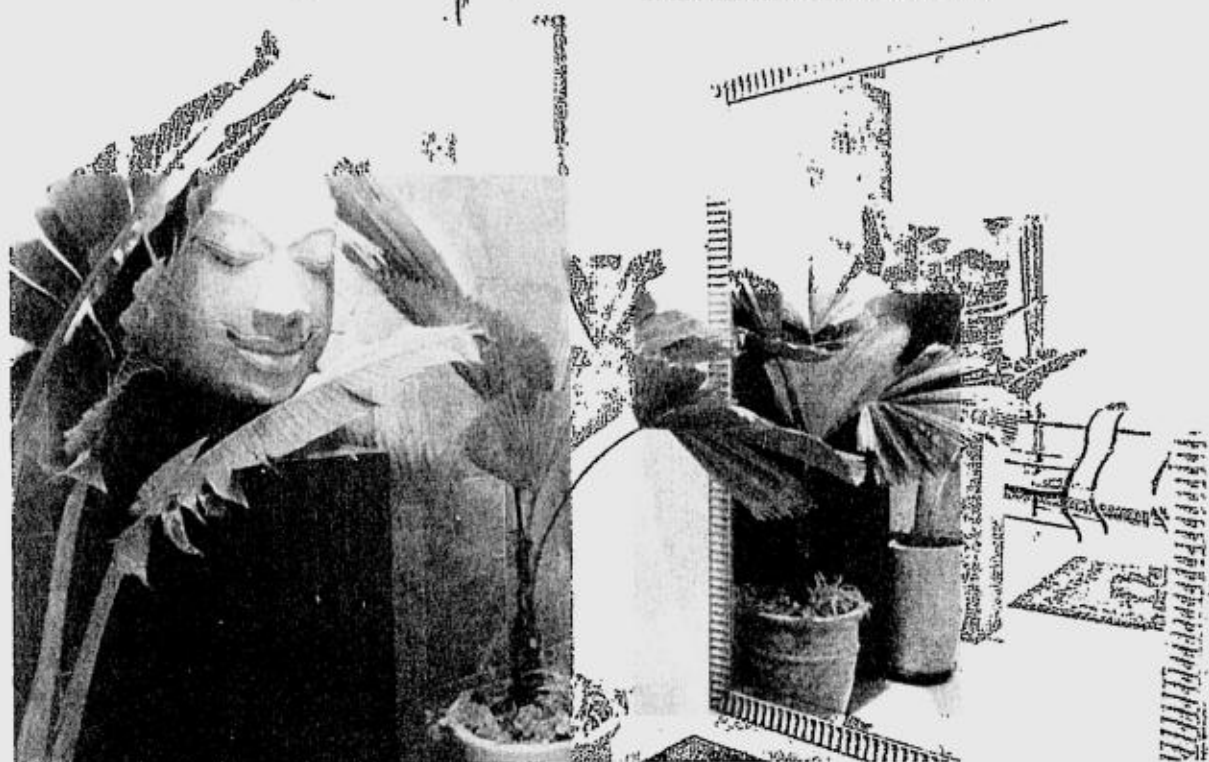
By Meluchi A. Rivera, Contributor

Photos by Bobot Meru

Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



ANG KIUOK's angsty painting stands out in a neutral color scheme amid window columns. A hanger was built into the cornice so that the owners can rotate the pieces in their collection.



AT the foyer, a Buddha's head rests on a mahogany pedestal, set against a background of a multi-colored stone slates and miniature banana trees.

IT CAN be said that they have finally moved up in the world. When this retired couple forsook their rambling house in New Manila for the controlled confines of a condominium, they chose 300 square meters of space 30-odd floors from ground level.

Our couple has found that, far from being "disconnected" from the earth, high-rise living has made them even more in tune with Nature. Floor-to-ceiling windows in all the rooms (including the master bathroom) afford them views not only of the surrounding landscape, but also of the changing seasons. They admit to having become more intimate with the changing face of the sun and sky during the day, and of the moon and stars at night.

But the vista, while spectacular, is not the only noteworthy aspect of their living space. If anything, the view has to compete for attention with the interior setting, as the couple's two loves—books and art—are given prominent play in all the rooms.

Pride of place

Nearly all walls were conscripted to show off the couple's extensive collection of books, paintings and artwork. Paintings hang in the living room, dining area, hall-cum-library, study, and bedrooms. Obscure works and foreign finds share pride of place alongside paintings of such prized

local names as Malang, Onib Olmeda, Ang Kiukok and BenCab. And yet, the success of this home's design comes from how a large number of items are displayed without having the space look like a cold gallery, or worse, a busy *tiangge*.

"I needed to display their things in a way that each one is given the prominence it deserves," explained designer Wilfrid Nicholo Magcase of the challenge he faced with this project. In the end, the couple willingly settled for seeing just a few of their beloved possessions at a time. The collection—"an embarrassing number of pieces," as the master of the house laughingly describes it—is rotated. Built-in runners under the cornices, like the one used in galleries, make it possible to change groupings without wreaking havoc on the walls.

Magcase delineated spaces within the living and dining areas via the use of wooden columns to "book-end" sections of walls. Given such treatment, even small spaces, such as the slots between the living room windows, become distinct from each other, and can thus exhibit varied pieces. During our visit, three diverse paintings occupied these slots: a 2001 sitting man by Ang Kiukok, a Venetian lady by an Italian painter, and a rotund dancer by a local artist. They were practically hung in a row; but each essentially had a separate

space, thus the owners have no fear of styles or colors ever "clashing."

This same trick, this time used along large expanses of walls, makes the space more intimate and directs the eye toward the artwork. Along the northern wall of the living room, an early work by Jose Blanco entitled "White Deer" is thus made more prominent.

Through the ingenious use of shelving, Magcase devised more areas for display. Narra counters in front of windows frame the view and provide surfaces for sculptural pieces, such as the brass works of Solomon Saprid. The designer also creates an ingenious alcove near the foyer through a grouping of bookshelves that frame an unusual still-life by Onib Olmedo.

Witty

With these design details in place, Magcase then stepped back and let the couple's free-wheeling tastes, as reflected in their varied art collection, come through in their choice of furniture. In the living room alone, furniture styles run the gamut of ornate Philippine antiques, slouchy leather pieces and stark modern classics. There are also a few odd finds, such as the slice of a massive root supported by four concrete slabs, which now serves as dining table. The master of the house

reckons that the tree must have been nearly 200 years old. The couple snapped up the item even when they already had a dining table. "It took eight men to carry it," he chuckles, "it's my favorite piece of furniture in this house."

Ironically, there is no painting in the foyer. Instead, the space is given the feel of a pocket garden. Here, a massive Buddha head from the couple's erstwhile yard in New Manila is mounted on a pedestal and transported to a new milieu, one with a backdrop of blue and terra cotta slate and a smattering of ferns and palms.

Overall, the resultant space is witty and, more important, exudes the aura of a real home, with a warm, lived-in feel. It is, after all, furnished with things collected over the last 30 years. In essence, Magcase's role was really just to create a palette for the owners to paint on.

"A house should reflect the eccentricities of its owner," Magcase explains. "That way, a designer creates something new. Otherwise one project starts looking like all the other projects he has done."

The lady of the house agrees. "This house is no showcase where things have their proper place. We can mess things up and it's okay." She motions around the house, smiling, "Everything you see here; this is us, this is our life."



DINING area is Asian with a modern interpretation. Two paintings by Vietnamese painters dominate the walls. Centerpiece is the organic wood slab. The buffet table is a rice container in solid wood.

ÉLAN What is an Italian restaurant?

By Amando Doronila
Photos by Rudy Esperas
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

AN article in the very informative food section of the "Financial Times" (Aug. 30-31) says: "There are 70,000 Italian restaurants outside Italy. But not more than 10,000 to 15,000 are truly Italian." It was quoting Edi Sommariva, general secretary of the Associazione Internazionale Ristoranti d'Italia (ARDI).

The current Italian presidency of the European Union, now held by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, has spurred interest in authentic Italian food. According to the FT article, Sommariva carried out a survey in Belgium, and reported, "Everyone who was asked said they had eaten in an 'Italian' restaurant, but 'only a third were certain of having eaten real Italian food.'"

Another survey finding: "In the Belgian Yellow Pages, there were 1,240 'Italian' restaurants ... but we reached the conclusion that only 100 or 150 were authentic."

The article left us with the impression that the fault lay not in restaurants calling themselves 'Italian,' but in the diners' opinion of what is Italian food, according to their tastes. The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating.

In the Philippines, so-called Italian food is probably the most popular, next to Chinese. There is one thing in common be-

tween the two: noodles. Proof of this is that spaghetti with meat sauce is served in nearly every household during town fiestas, and in nearly all restaurants that say they serve "native" food.

The Filipino kitchen has added something unique to Italian cooking, though. As in spaghetti served by countless fast-food eateries, the dishes have acquired a sweetish taste. Among restaurants in Manila that are frequented by sophisticated circles—many of them have travelled to Italy where the best pastas are to be found in *trattorias*, the exemplars of home cooking—there are a number that pride themselves in their Italian dishes. Most serve excellent meals. I shall not name them all, but my recent experience was at Westin Philippine Plaza's Alfieri, whose logo is, "Passionately Italian."

Criteria

According to the criteria set by (ARDI) for authentic Italian restaurants, (1) ingredients of all the dishes have to be Italian, (2)

at least three-quarters of the wine in the cellar has to be of Italian origin, (3) at least one waiter must speak Italian and the others should be able to explain the dishes, their composition and origin. The chef does not need to be an Italian, but does need to have been trained in Italian cuisine. Alfieri at least fulfills some of these basic criteria.

Executive chef Brian Farrell is Irish but has extensive experience in Italian restaurants, chiefly in London, considered the temple of Italian cuisine. I am certain Alfieri's wine cellar is well-stocked with Italian wines—beyond the range of the more popular *chianti*. It has a good representation of the grape varieties. Over lunch we were served with *pinot grigio* by Pighin and *barolo* by Corderode Montezemolo Barbera d'Alba.

To validate the restaurant's claim of being "Passionately Italian," Chef Farrell prepared a short menu (some of the dishes are found in the *a la carte* list). For appetizer we had seared goose

liver served on an apple chutney, caramelized onion in red wine jus. The serving was modest, to satisfy the French provision of *amuse bouche*, sufficient to tease the palate, to pave the way for the ensuing dishes.

Goose liver is standard fare in many Manila restaurants that claim fine dining, and it has become a tool for exhibitionism among nouveau riche diners or social climbers, especially celebrities, who like to impress others by ordering servings ample enough to clog the arteries with cholesterol in one gulp.

Innovative

The appetizer was followed by an innovative soup, Espresso of Garbanzo beans, with garlic, thin grissini. Served in a demitasse, the soup could be mistaken for the froth of *café cappuccino*. To break the sampling, then came Red Basil Sorbet on a crunchy tulip of poppy seeds and molasses, leading up to the main dishes—Risotto, with scallops and zucchini, flavored with saffron; pan-fried fillet of sea bass, with fennel salad and lemon dressing. Meat eaters were not disappointed with the grilled beef tenderloin medallion, with semolina dumpling, baby carrots, dried eggplant and red pepper.

The tenderloin came in modest portions, and most of us ordered it medium rare, although I would have liked it rare.

There were concessions to vegetarians such as red chicory risotto and roasted vegetable polenta cake on homemade tomato sauce. For the main dish, very tempting was vegetable cannelloni topped with pesto, which could be mistaken for fresh lumpia.



GRILLED beef tenderloin medallion with semolina dumpling, baby carrots, dried eggplant and red pepper.

A survey counts 70,000 outside Italy, but considers not more than 15,000 authentic. Westin Philippine Plaza's Alfieri could pass the test

For dessert we had a trio of tiramisu, panna cotta, and glazed apricot flan.

Next time you eat in an Italian restaurant, don't be bashful in asking questions about the menu since many, if not most Manila restaurants that claim to be Italian don't have Italian waiters. It is best to ask the chef to explain his dishes, and if there are things you like—such as *osobuco*—but are not offered, don't hesitate to ask. I find chefs, including Chef Farrell very accommodating and willing to modify dishes, specially pasta, by adding ingredients not described in the menu card.

One learns much more about Italian cuisine by being inquisitive and adventurous.



VEGETABLE cannelloni topped with pesto



WESTIN's A-team: Food and beverage manager Paolo Campillo, marketing director Rose Libongco, public relations manager Rica Peñalosa and executive chef Brian Farrell

Where the action is

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

HE IS not your typical German. As Gerhard Doll, The Peninsula Manila's new executive chef, himself recounts: "Most Germans, when they are in another country, would still want to eat German food. Me, I eat anything. I like to try new things."

Right now, the novel thing in Chef Doll's life is living in Manila. It's not a difficult adjustment, he says, as he has previously lived in Seoul, Macau and, more recently, Bangkok and Hong Kong. He admits to being enamored with Asia, and he jumped at the chance to return to the region after a two-year stint with The Peninsula Chicago.

We get to know Chef Doll over a progressive dinner, so called because we are having the meal in stages, and in areas usually off-limits to guests. How better to get to know the man than by sharing a meal with him and seeing him in his element? Dinner at the back of the house, along the Pen's galleys and kitchens, afforded us a rare glimpse of the chef, his colleagues, and his domain.

Small talk

Ironically, our icebreaker is a mini-cocktail spread inside a frigid chiller. We exchange small talk while enjoying shooters of fresh oysters in sake, dragon roll, beef carpaccio, shrimp relish on tomato jelly, and five-spice duck tea.

With us are the hotel general manager David Batchelor, resident manager Hans Hordijk, and executive assistant manager in charge of Food & Beverage Matthias Al-Amiry. We learn that they came to work in Manila also in part due to a fondness for the region and its cuisine.

"I find Manila to be a very livable city," says Hordijk, smiling. "Even while people complain about traffic, inefficiency, and then that (incident at Oakwood). I'm not shocked anymore because I have also lived in Bangkok. Their coups were not tidy like the last one you had here. They also have problems with crime, but they are quiet about it. Here everything seems to make the papers."

The natural warmth of the people, Chef Doll notes, makes up for a lot of inconveniences. "It's nice to work in Asia because the people are generally warmer. Service seems better because it comes from the heart. In other places, they may smile but it's only because it's part of the job." The remark seems apt as we are now on to warm appetizers by the poolside, care of The Peninsula's Spices.

Spicy hors d'oeuvres of *som tam* (green papaya and shrimp salad) and lamb *tandoori* rolled in *papadom* is familiar fare to Chef Doll, who is married to a Thai and has come to love that country's spicy cuisine. "In Germany and many parts of Europe, a lot of the dishes contain butter or cream. Most meals have meat with gravy and potatoes. In Asia you use soy sauce and other seasonings."

Highlight

For the main course, a table is set up just steps away from the main kitchen. The atmosphere is almost homey, amid the clanging of pots and the raised voices of the harried kitchen staff (Old Manila is fully booked). We enjoy a seven-vegetable and goat cheese ravioli on fava bean puree served with saffron coriander butter, a delightful recipe that Chef Doll developed and is now part of Mi Place's fare. This is paired with crispy seared Scottish salmon with mushrooms, leeks and rocket lettuce in truffle emulsion, a popular dish at the Old Manila.

As we savor these dishes that are rich in taste but light on the stomach, we realize that this is also a treat to the chefs in our midst. Chef Doll and Al-Amiry admit to hardly ever sitting down to a meal at the workplace. "You are more conscious about what you eat when you work with food all day," Al-Amiry notes ruefully. Chef Doll shrugs: "Throughout the day I end up sampling so many things anyway."

The chefs, all male, admit that at home, their wives do the cooking. When you work in the industry, where days begin at 5 a.m. and end at 10 p.m., Matthias says, you hardly have the time or the energy to cook at home. Besides, Chef Doll adds, they all end up marrying good cooks. Somehow, it all works out.

What would a progressive dinner be without a trip to the pastry kitchen (for many the highlight of the experience)? With the friendly warning that we shall be made to work for our "just desserts," the group is handed aprons and pieces of rich, soft-centered Valrhona chocolate cakes, still in their molds. Chef Doll then challenges us to plate up these "molten" bitter-sweet breads, which meant unmolding one without having it collapse, dusting it with powder sugar then garnishing it with chocolate shavings. A hard job, but we are up to it as the reward is, of course, that we get to eat it.

The dinner-cum-tour winds down at Exclusivites. We are all beyond full, but Chef Doll plies us with Manchego cheese, cold cuts and truffles. Dinner finally ends at 10 p.m.; three hours after we started. A bit late for the rest of us but, we realize, it's just your typical workday for Chef Doll and his crew.

A 'progressive dinner' with The Peninsula Manila's new executive chef and his crew



ARTIST-gourmet Claude Tayag and executive chef Gerhard Doll talk shop at dinner at the Peninsula's kitchen

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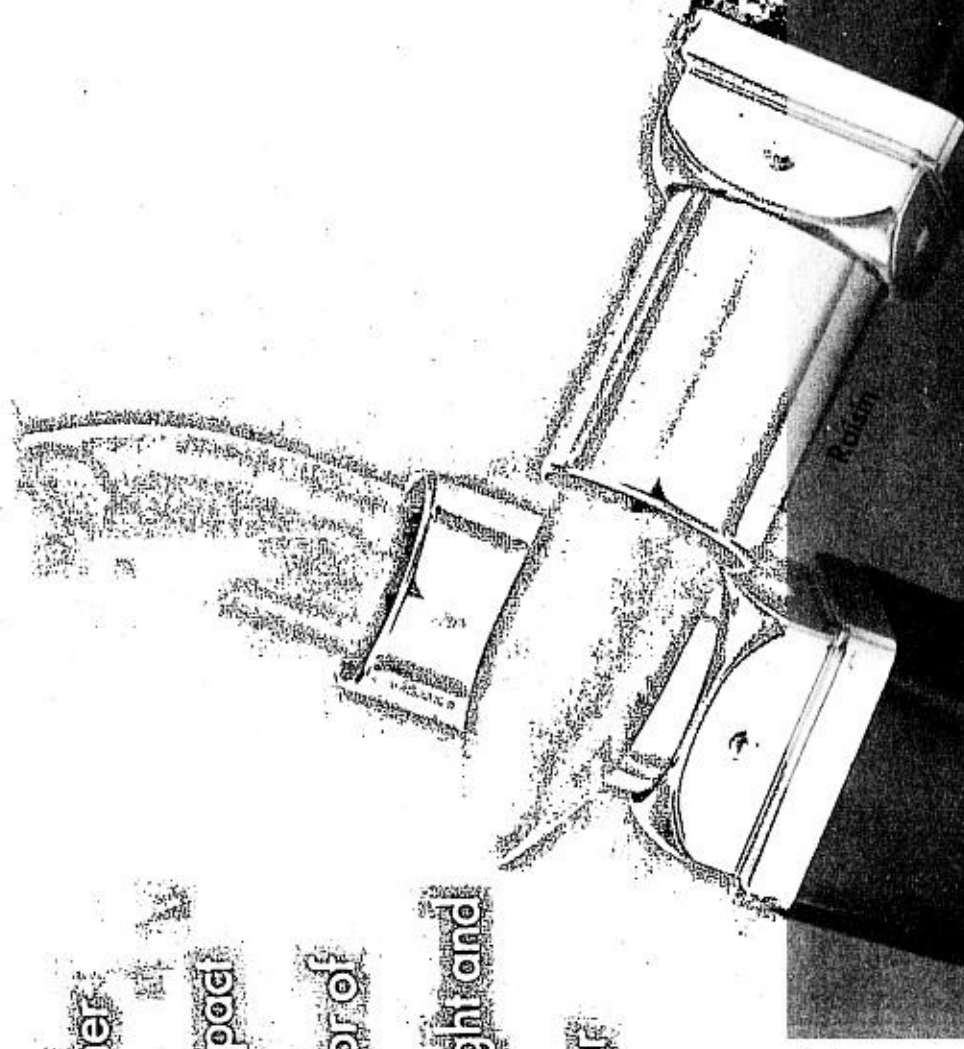
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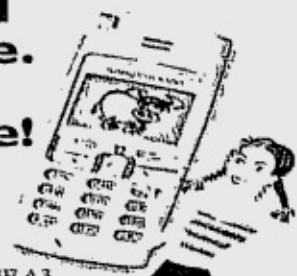
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GO TO PAGE A3

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre



Jamming at Streetscape
September 12 • Ryan Regino 9pm • Vagabond 10:30pm
September 13 • Noel Cabangon 9:30pm • Soul Out 11pm

Robert Seña comes into his own as a total performer

By Nestor U. Torre

SINGING star Robert Seña caused viewers to smile when he guested on TV recently to plug his first major concert, "Showtime," which will be staged at Music Museum at 9 p.m. today.

Competition

Asked about the competition he is facing, he grinned and winced at the same time and replied, "Wala—ang P4, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Jim Brickman, at Lea Salonga lang naman!"

Truly, aside from Valentine week, this weekend is probably the most star-studded period for the live performance scene this year. So, why did Robert decide to pit his solo show tonight against the "giants"?

Candidly, he explains that his show's playdate was fixed months ago, before the big musical stars announced their respective shows. Not having a crystal ball in his bag of props, he just has to do his best to prove that he's got what it takes to measure up to the really big singing stars.

To their credit, a growing number of music buffs are betting that Robert does have what it takes, and are opting to watch his show, rather than the big acts playing this weekend.

Logic

Their logic: the major stars follow pretty much the same format, while Robert's "Showtime" presents something fresh and relatively new in its cabaret-type, big-band sound concept.

There's also a lot to be said for the fact that this is Robert's dream concert. After performing in major musical-theater productions abroad and sampling the best in entertainment in Europe and the United States, Robert has developed a keen sense for the unique and original in live performance.

He's learned that established formats are fine for the commercial trade, but when a performing artist wants to express his uniqueness and genuine vitality as a musical artist, he has no choice but to go out on a limb.

It is this act of daring not to fall back on standard routines that distinguishes the truly vital performer from the rest of the maddening musical crowd. In taking risks, in going out on a limb, an artist could come crashing down—but he could also fly.

Repertoire

A look at the repertoire of "Showtime" indicates the range and depth of the solo concert's musical inspirations and intentions: from "O Sole Mio" to "Fly Me To The Moon," from "Lately" to "Disco Inferno," and from "Impossible Dream" to

"Swing Medley"—!

Pushing the envelope even further, Robert will unveil his tap-dancing ability in "Song and Dance Man."

Guest stars Joel Torre and Richard Merk will unveil surprises of their own, and another gifted guest will go to town with "Fever."

But over and above all these innovations are Robert's unique tenor voice and sensitivity as an actor-singer. With a song in his heart and his heart on his sleeve, Robert Seña now truly comes into his own as a total performer. Call 721-6726 or 0917-8174364.



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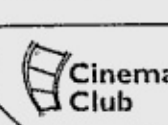
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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Satisfying mix of clubby and sentimental tunes

By Noelani Torre

WE never saw the '70s, being little more than a twinkle in our parents' eyes at the time. However, we did grow up listening to the music of the '70s — swinging, big-band sounds that we can jive with, though our generation is generally inclined towards more rock-oriented music.

Live recording

Thus, we were able to enjoy the live recording of the concert, "70s 2 Day," held by former members of two of that era's hot club bands — the New Minstrels and the Circus Band.

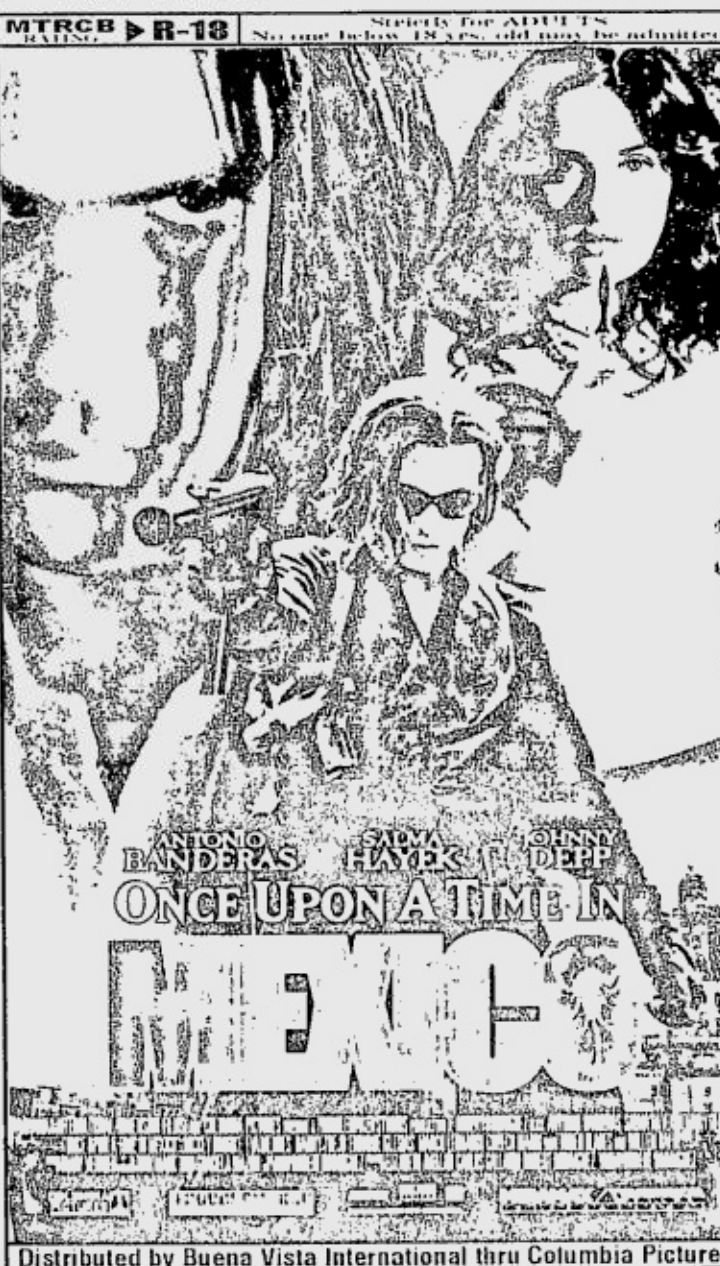
The New Minstrels, says the CD's inlay, "started as a group of San Beda students who liked to sing, but was soon getting honest-to-goodness gigs, so they decided to go professional." By including Filipino songs in their repertoire — such as Mike Velarde's "Buhat" — the group helped define what would eventually be known as the "Manila Sound."

The Circus Band, on the other hand, "did mainly American Top 40s," and they were made distinctive by their wild costumes and make-up a la Kiss. The two bands had gigs mostly in the clubs on Roxas Blvd. (which were frequented by people of their own age



LOUIE Reyes and Eugene Villaluz have taken a trip down memory lane with updated recording of their group's hits.

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group), the Malate of the '70s.

Now, more than 20 years after their show-band beginnings, some of the groups' members have taken a trip down memory lane in this two-disc album that is as refreshing as only a live recording can be.

Enduring songs

The New Minstrels' Eugene Villaluz, Louie Reyes and Ding Mercado, and Hajji Alejandro, Tillie Moreno and Pat Castillo of the Circus Band have banded together to regale us with the enduring songs of the '70s, as well as medleys inspired by Latino greats, Sergio Mendez and Carlos Santana.

Album opener is the suitably swingy "Love The One You're With" (Steve Stills), sung with a youthful energy that belies the age of our singers. This is followed by Jim Paredes' "Nakapagtataka," sung by Hajji Alejandro with his signature easy charm.

These guys all talented, and they all have style — things that time can't take away.

Easy camaraderie

The strength of this album lies in the easy camaraderie of its artists, and the fact that it's the recording of an actual concert. You can tell, even without watching the second disc which is a VCD, that these guys are comfortable with one another.

That it's recorded live may have its drawbacks for some, especially when it comes to technical aspects like sound, but we think that these minor faults are redeemed by the freshness given the material by a non-studio-slicked performance.

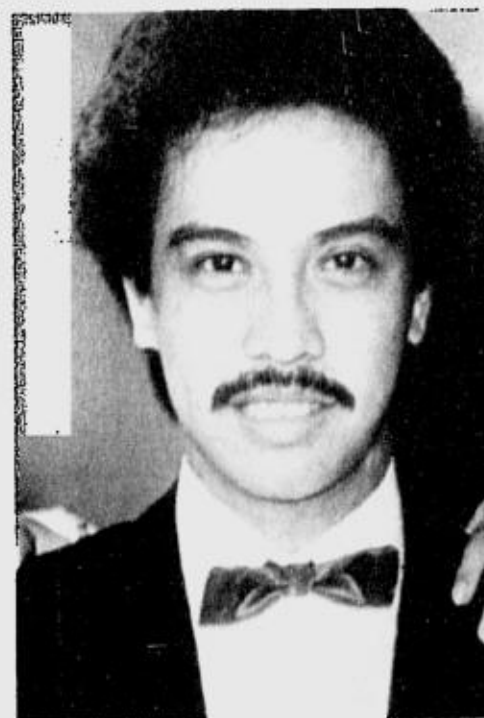
Another refreshing aspect of this album is that it sounds like a big, happy reunion. It's good to hear people who sound like they're having fun making music. And, of course, the fact that these folks have decades of experience under their belts ensures that the performances don't turn sloppy.

We don't have any particular favorites; this album should be taken more as a whole rather than by number. We did like Alejandro's "Nakapagtataka," though, especially as we'd first heard it sung by his daughter, Rachel.

We also liked their Santana medley — "Oye Como Va," "Black Magic Woman," "Evil Ways" and "Smooth" — but this may only be because we already like Santana, in the first place.

This isn't a perfect listen — it has its rough edges, and there are spots when the sound really dips — but it all turns out okay in the end, especially when you watch the VCD of the concert itself. Spontaneity makes up for the technical deficiencies.

All in all, this album is a satisfying mix of the clubby, dance-able and sentimental. And the fact that the singers don't strut around a la Britney Spears, and don't rely on much else other than their voices, makes it even more satisfying to listen to.

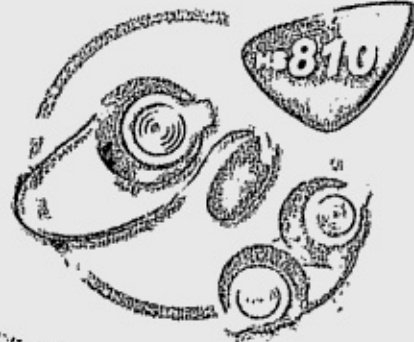


ALEJANDRO, Circus Band alumnus.

MOVIES



MUSIC



MOVIES & MUSIC

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MUSIC & VIDEO

MANILA VIDEO

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

SATURDAYSpecial

ID3

'Late Nite Catechism' is an interactive show

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER mounting big productions like the film "Ang Bagong Buwan" and the "Ilusione" stage revue, Bahaghari Productions is playing it intimate for a change, and we like the change of pace.

Production group

The production group led by Margie Moran Florendo, Nina Romualdez, Cammita Francisco and Maan Hontiveros is staging the hit monologue, "Late Nite Catechism" at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, from Oct. 3 to 26.

The show may be small, but it's done big business abroad, thanks to its high humor, nostalgia and performance quotients.

Its central figure is a nun who lectures her audience on the catechism of the Catholic Church, and goes "from benevolent instructor to authoritarian shrew," as a reviewer puts it. More:

"Her deliciously abrupt mood swings are bound to strike a chord in anyone who survived Catholic schooling" (Bill Ervolino, The Record).

Other appreciative reactions: "Rich with laughter," "Laugh-out-loud funny," "Funny, sharply satiric, but always affectionate look at old-fashioned religion. An entertaining mix of monologue, stand-up improv—and Oprah!"

Starting point

But a good script is only the starting point for a theater piece, particularly when it's as minimalist as this. You'd better get a terrific actress to play the nun, or you're in big trouble!

Well, Bahaghari has cast two larger-than-life veteran thespian-directors in the role of the nun (they do six performances apiece).

Baby Barredo has appeared in over 150 stage productions, and is known for her strong, vivid performances in dramas, comedies and musicals.

And Zeneida "Bibot" Amador is similarly celebrated as producer, director and actress, in some 350 productions.

Having done plays with Bibot and Baby, we know that they are astute choices for the monologist's part, and the audience had better pay attention—or else!

The two Repertory Philippines founders are also going to do something relatively new in these parts: interactive theater. In "Late

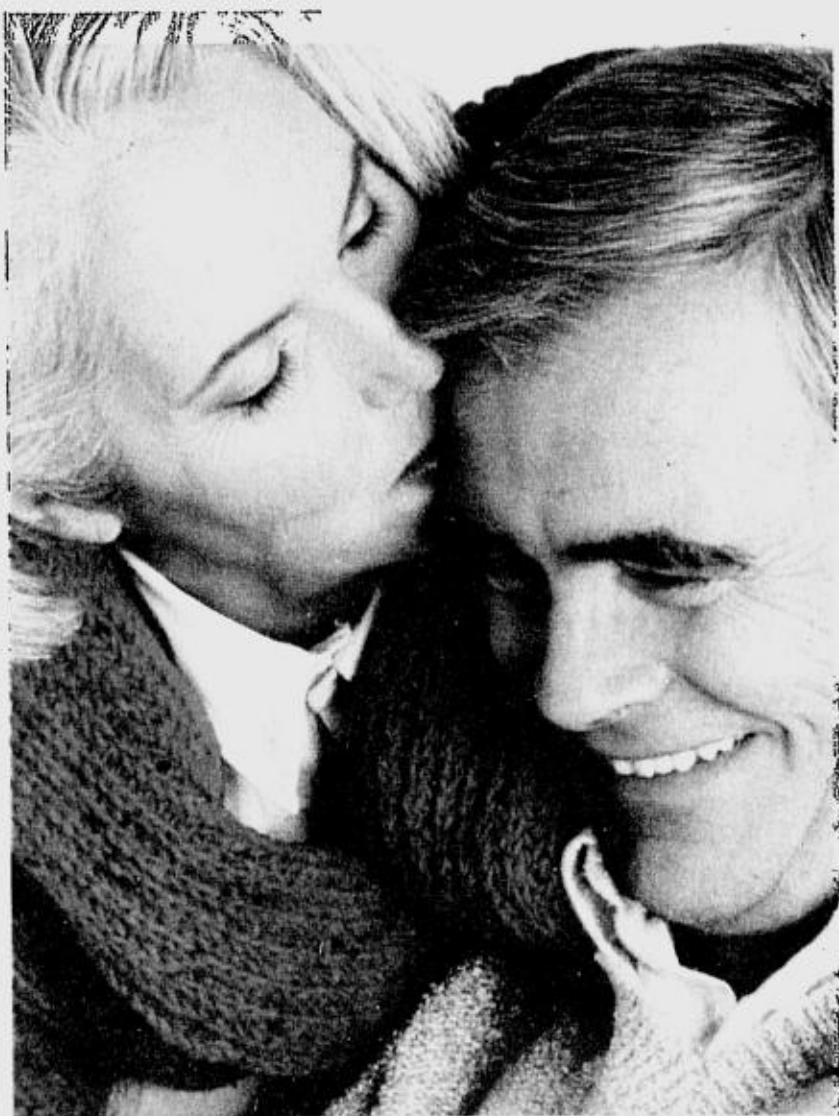
Nite Catechism," they'll be interacting with members of the audience, whose spontaneous answers and reactions make the show much more than just a monologue.

"Late Nite Catechism" opens its run on Friday, Oct. 3.

LATE/DS



AMADOR. Celebrated as producer, director and actress in some 350 productions.



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SM

Wenn Deramas never says never

By Andy P. Bais

DID you know that Wenn Deramas, the director of "Ang Tanging Ina," the highest-grossing local film in recent memory at around P200M, used to be a waiter?

Bigger promotion

There's nothing wrong with that, of course—especially in these parts, where a hotel and restaurant management graduate like Wenn could start at the bottom. Five months after getting his promotion as kitchen supervisor, he resigned because he thought that a bigger promotion was nowhere in sight.

Armed with his "wealth" of experience as prop man, actor, writer and director in school theater productions, he applied as researcher for ABS-CBN's "Tatak Pilipino" in 1990 when friends told him that there was an opening.

Naturally, his resumé did not contain any previous TV work. So, when the show's executive producer told him that theater is different from television, the ever-persistent Wenn pleaded to be taken in as trainee, without pay. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Writer

It has been a steady climb since then. From production assistant, he rose



DERAMAS. Fast learner.

through the ranks to become a writer, even if he knew nothing about scripting. "Ako kasi yung tipong hindi nasisindak. Di ako tumitigil hanggang di ko makamit ang misyon ko sa buhay," he reflects.

When Tessie Tomas didn't read the spiels he wrote for the "Teysi ng Tahanan" show, Wenn didn't sulk in a corner—he asked people to teach him how to improve his writing skills.

Wenn must have been a fast learner: There came a time when he wrote for nine ABS-CBN shows! He went on to become an executive producer, and eventually, a director.

His first directorial assignment for TV came in 1996 for "Calvento Files," which he also produced. "Nagustuhan ng management ang finished product, kaya I was given the chance to direct my first teleserye, "Mula sa Puso," he recalls.

Wenn was lucky that the TV network also has a film division. They eventually assigned him to

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(friday)

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SM City Bacoor
SM City Manila
SM City Pampanga

September 13
(saturday)

SM City North Edsa
SM Southmall Las Pinas

September 14
(sunday)

SM Megamall Ortigas
SM City Fairview
SM Supercenter Sucat
SM City Bicutan

WENN/D4



BEING BEAUTIFUL IS NOTHING
NEXT TO FEELING BEAUTIFUL



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

SATURDAYSpecial

Jodie Foster is a good role model for younger stars

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

TODAY'S movie and TV stars should take a close look at Jodie Foster's character and stunning success if they want to survive in a business fraught with so much superficiality.

Foster, a two-time Academy award winner for best actress, adamantly refused to do a nude scene in one of her earlier movies, and is thus someone younger stars can look up to—on and off the set.

Early movie

In "Foster Child: A Biography of Jodie Foster," written by Foster's elder brother Buddy, the producer of the early movie "The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane" got a mouthful from Foster (who was then barely out of her teens) when he insisted "he wanted to pull my dress lower."

Says Foster: "I decided he was nuts. I just walked off the set and said, 'I'm not going to do that.'"

The movie later earned good reviews; she was adjudged "arguably the best young actress in Hollywood" by People magazine.

Foster, the star of "Panic Room" and Oscar Best Actress winner for "Silence of the Lambs" (1991), where she played FBI agent Clarice Starling, and "The Accused" (1988), where she portrayed a rape victim, views education as a very important part of life.

After graduating valedictorian from high school at Lycee Francais, she went on to Yale University.

Writes her brother: "For the first three years at Yale, Jodie made no feature film, ex-

cept for the made-for-TV movie, "Svengali" with Peter O'Toole.

"The movie was shot on location in New York in the winter of 1982. Jodie commuted almost daily by train from New Haven to New York, keeping up with schoolwork by studying between takes and on the train."

Independent reading

Due to schoolwork and independent reading, Foster is conversant with the works of writers Baudelaire and Jean Paul Sartre. "She could easily hold her own in discussions about the currents of French philosophy. But she also managed to find time to get a belt in judo, skateboard, and play on a girl's soccer team," writes Buddy.

In 1984, Foster graduated magna cum laude, with a bachelor's degree major in African-American literature. Her thesis was highly praised by the university's faculty.

Foster, who believes that movies should change people's lives, has been anything but a prima donna. She avoids superstar treatment on the set. Her brother says that Jodie never made excuses and never asked people to fetch things for her.

"She got her own food from the mess line, rather than insisting it be brought to her trailer. And she made a point to get to know everyone. She called everyone from the truck drivers to the cameramen by their first names, and would sit and chat with them over lunch."

Trappings of Hollywood

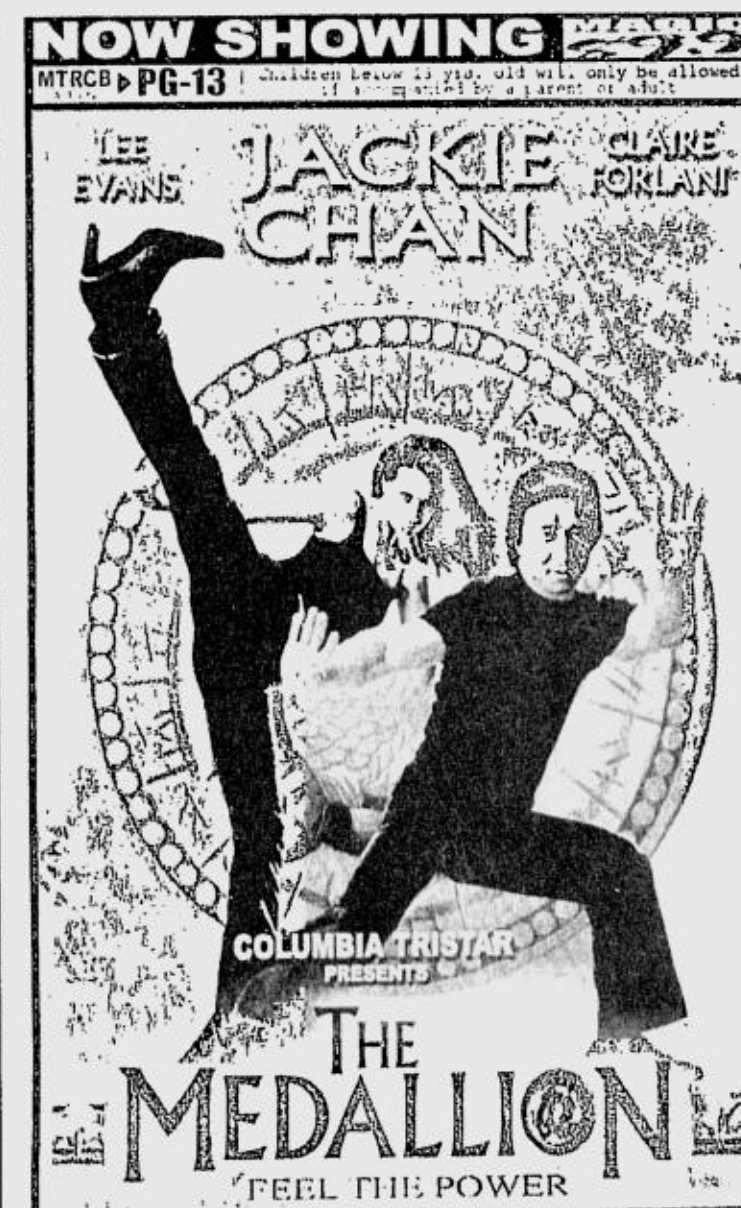
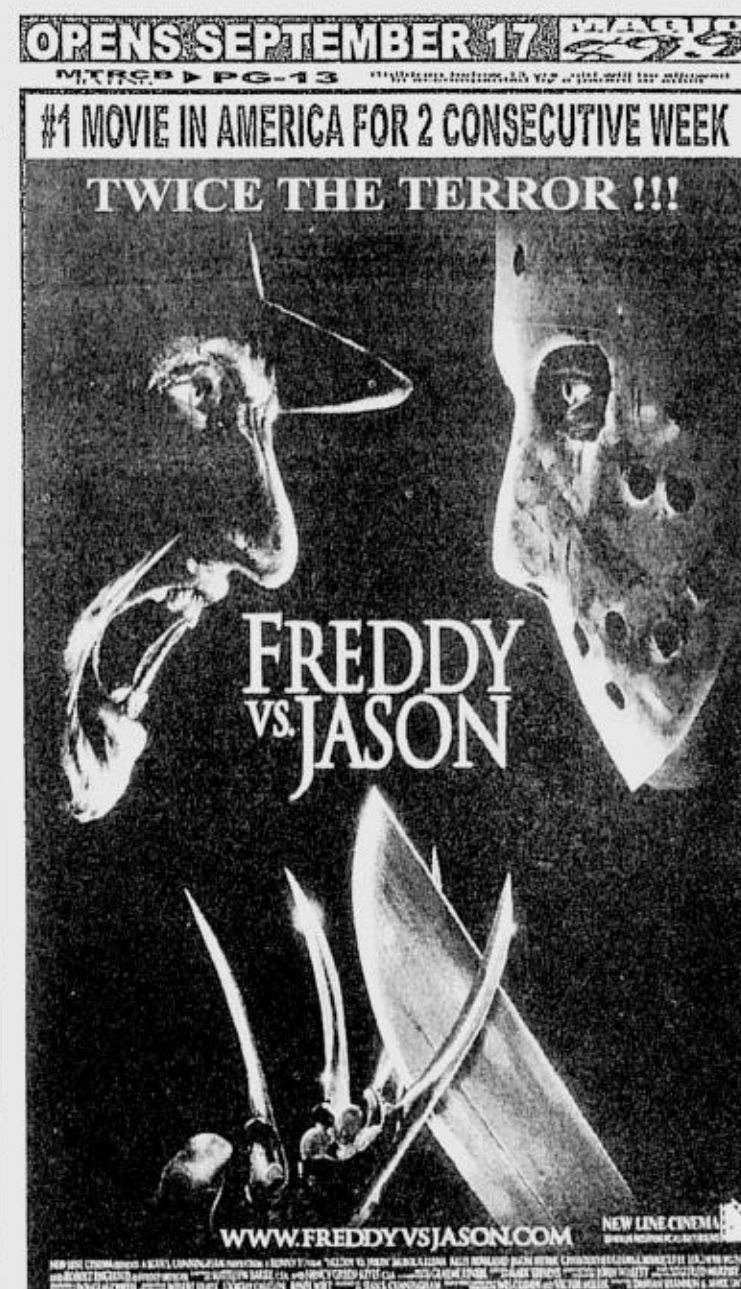
Unlike most of today's stars, Foster has defied the chic trappings of Hollywood. Her usual attire consists of a "man's white T-shirt, dark skirt and sandals, and she wears no make-up." Her brother says the only clothes she buys are the casual and comfortable kind.



"She has never bought designer clothes in her life, and never will. The Armani dresses and suits she wears to the Oscars and premiere parties are given to her."

But perhaps the most striking mark of Foster's character is her penchant for doing household chores. "I like chores. I like picking up the laundry. I don't want to give that up and let someone else do it. That's not living," she says. Buddy views this as Jodie's way of being "connected to reality."

JODIE Foster believes that movies should change people's lives.



Wenn Deramas

From page D3

meg his first movie. "I had to take a crash course in filmmaking from directors Olive Lamasan, Rory Quintos and Lauren Dyogi," he shares.

Films

The movie, "Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita," starring Claudine Barretto and Diether Ocampo, was a commercial success. And so were his succeeding films—"Mula sa Puso, The Movie," "Kung Ikaw Ay Isang Panaginip," and the movie that made box-office history, "Ang Tanging Ina."

Wenn confesses to not having any inkling that "Ina" would become a huge hit. "Walang exact formula for success. Minsan, magandang-maganda ang pelikula pero flop sa takilya."

"Its success can be attributed to the right timing, panahon kasi ni Ai-Ai de las Alas, maganda ang story at bago ang treatment sa comedy," he observes.

The box-office director looks up to Lino Brocka and Channing Carlos. "Kapag pinapanood ko ang mga movies ni tatay Channing, may entertainment factor talaga. As a director, gusto ko, nakangiti ang audience. Maski paano, naka-contribute ako sa pagpapasya sa kanila," he beams.

Hardworking

He attributes his success to hard work and his being "walang takot." "Kahit anong i-alok sa akin, hindi ako nag-iisip na ipagpabukas pa, kasi baka bukas, wala na yun. I don't believe in refusing something just because I'm not ready. Maging honest ka lang na di mo alam, and someone will be there to teach you."

He's currently doing his fifth movie, "Volta," another Ai-Ai de las Alas-starrer. He also directs "Ang Tanging Ina— The Series" and "Buttercup" on TV.

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	WWW.XXX.COM
Ali 2	ASBOOBS
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
Ali 5	S.W.A.T.
Ali 6	KALABIT
Ali 7	DADDY DAY CARE

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SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
SEPT 14	PBA: FED EX VS. GINEBRA
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'TALK TO HER'

Poignant but not schmaltzy

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

IN Almodovar's movie, Benigno first sees Alicia rehearsing in a studio from across his apartment and falls in love with her. After the accident, he volunteers to be her nurse and seems willing to spend the whole day at her bedside—massaging, bathing, applying facials, fixing her hair (he also finished a long-distance course on beauty and make-up).

Experiences

As the men share their experiences, Benigno urges Marco to not just sit by Lydia's side but to talk to her as he would talk to any normal person. He believes that comatose patients can snap out of their respective states, despite medical evidence to the contrary, if people around them truly believe they would.

While the writer is slowly losing hope (especially after having been told that Lydia had intended to go back to her old lover but was unable to tell him this before she was mortally gored by a bull), the male nurse's obsession for the dancer grows disturbingly (he tells the writer that he wants to marry Alicia). The distraught Marco leaves Lydia to her old lover and drowns himself with work to forget his emotional travails.

The story takes an eventful turn when the ballerina stops having her monthly periods and is found to be pregnant—leading to Benigno's dismissal, and he is then sent to prison.

When Marco learns about the fate of his friend, he flies back to Spain to appease the



grieving nurse, who begs him to find out what happened to Alicia and their baby.

Benigno is led to believe that both mother and daughter didn't survive the pregnancy. Consumed by guilt and grief, he takes a whole bottle of pills, not knowing that, while the baby really didn't make it, Alicia survived. Soon after, Alicia meets Marco in the same theater where the two men first met.

Memorable performances

With memorable performances by Camara and Grandinetti, and a haunting cameo by Brazilian singer Caetano Veloso singing "Paloma" in a scene which sets the film's emotional tone, it is further strengthened by Almodovar's unique storytelling style and his familiarity with the stranger possibilities of sexual expression.

He always presents a dilemma that shakes up not just his characters' moral conventions but ours as well, effectively blurring the lines distinguishing right from wrong by presenting situations that we ourselves would find difficult to deal with. Like Francois Godard or Reiner Fassbinder's oeuvre, his situations may seem creepy and surreal, but he always manages to evoke strong emotions from his audiences.

We can't wait to see his next film, "La Mala

CAMARA. Powerful as the nurse who falls for his patient.

Educacion ("Bad Education"), which stars Camara and Mexican sensation Gael Garcia Bernal who, despite his being no stranger to dark stories and sexual themes, has recently

remarked in "Interview:" "I knew it would be intense, but I did not know how intense it'd get. You just have to dive into Pedro's world and get rid of your ego."



BARREDO. Has appeared in over 150 stage productions.

'Late Nite Catechism'

From page D3

Sponsoring organizations are: Oct. 3, Save Davao Gulf Foundation. Oct. 5, St. Joseph, Q.C. Oct. 10, Maryknoll Class '78. Oct. 12, St. Joseph Alumnae Association. Oct. 17, Literacy Program of the Rotary Club of San Jose del Monte.

Oct. 23, Mothers for Peace. Oct. 24, Maryknoll (MCHS) Batch '80. Oct. 26, Center for Positive Futures, a St. Joseph-assisted project.

For tickets to the Oct. 4, 11, 16 and 19 performances, call 891-5610. "Late Nite Catechism" is sponsored by Dove.

Swing . . .

From page D7

of Kyo Takayama, Ima, Capers, and Bangus will launch its catering service on Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. at the Acropolis Clubhouse, Libis, Quezon City. Call 723-8220 and 725-1419.

On NBN "Spotlight," hosted by Bernadette Allyson from 6 to 8 a.m., MWF, Dr. Rebecca B. Singson will talk about women's health issues.

Mandy Navasero does product and people photography for advertisers, manufacturers and exporters. Call 522-5189 or (0916) 706-0130.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMBS / RAMPAGE
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAHANAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SEX BOMBS / RAMPAGE
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KALABIT
CORONET B	AMAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ASBOOB
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20 79 / 633-78-51 TO 78
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ASBOOB
CINEMA-3	KALABIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-6	PRINSE AT SUREMA
CINEMA-7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-8	SINBAO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	WWW.XXX.COM
CINEMA-15	WWW.XXX.COM

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-4	WWW.XXX.COM

UNIWIIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAOUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SEX BOMBS

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MEDALLION PG13 11:50, 1:55, 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:20	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS R13 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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Registration will start at 6 a.m. and tournament proper will tee-off "shotgun" style at 8 a.m. The event will make use of the Blind Callaway format.

The tournament aims to raise funds for SELF, a non-profit, non-government organization founded in 1992 for the treatment of substance abuse. SELF's primary objective is to rehabilitate drug dependents through a self-help pro-

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

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mahilig mag-flirt si men, buti naman at na-in-love sa best friend kong si Xiao Yu. Sa wakas na-realize din nya ang essence of love.

Nakakatuwa talaga si me. Zuo, ok ang sense of humor & friendly pa. Pero minsan may pagka-deep din.

Crush ko si Xiao Zhe 'er, kaya lang mas maigi pang kasama nya si Teng Tang Jing.

SHAN CAI

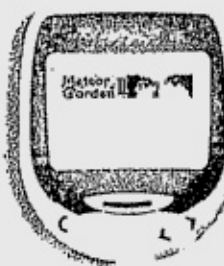
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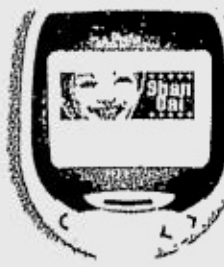


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Monique Wilson returns to concert scene in solo show

By Andy P. Bais

ON SEPT. 26-27, Monique Wilson will return to the concert stage in "Monique Sings Gershwin and Other Broadway Hits" at the new Republic of Malate Theater.

The concert also doubles as the launch of her international album which contains 16 Gershwin songs that she recorded in Tokyo two years ago.

Album

The show is Monique's first concert in three years. She just finished her MA in Theater Arts at London's Central School of Speech and Drama. Although she came home occasionally during

school breaks, she didn't stay long enough to do a concert or promote the album that is now enjoying critical acclaim in Japan as a premier jazz recording.

Monique describes her forthcoming show as an acoustic concert that has only a baby grand piano to accompany her, with 12 members of the New Voice Company as guests.

"But, as in my previous concerts, there is always a story. It's as if we're creating a small musical. Instead of just sequencing the songs, the show follows a journey. So we chose songs that can tell us stories of women. *Di ko kasi type na mag-concert just to sing*. First and foremost, I really

consider myself more of an actress than a singer," she says.

Monique reiterates, "People are tired of watching the usual type of show. The Filipino audience is sophisticated, critical and very demanding. You have to give it your best. And since our New Voice Company's strength is theater, I thought of putting into the concert everything I learned in the last two years."

Repertoire

Her repertoire includes Gershwin classics, ("Someone to Watch Over Me," and "Embraceable You,") as well as Broadway hits-- "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" (from "Evita"), "Unexpected

Song" (from "Tell Me On a Sunday"), "Love Changes Everything" (from "Aspects of Love") and "Where Is Love" (from "Oliver").

Monique's all-Gershwin album, on the other hand, was recorded live at the Irish Hall, a theater in Tokyo that Kaz Ishikawa, her Japanese producer, hired for two weeks.

"I'm proud of my latest album. I had the premier jazz critic in Tokyo sit down for the duration of the recording sessions to give me notes. We really worked on the quality of the recording and the interpretation of the songs," Monique relates.

One other "event" that Monique is looking forward to is



WILSON. Sings again after three years.

the chance to act once again with two of the country's theater greats, Zeneida "Bibot" Amador and Baby Barredo, for a special two-night staging of "The Vagina Monologues" on Sept. 19-20 at the Republic of Malate.

Difference

"These are the women who made a difference in my life when I was young," says Monique of the Repertory Philippines stalwarts who honed her talent since she was nine years old.

She had appeared in over 50 Rep productions before she made waves in London in "Ms Saigon."

"It's a great feeling to perform with Bibot and Baby again after 14 years! I owe them so much for the training that they gave me. It's a big thing when our mentors watch our shows, and an even bigger thing if they perform in them," she gushes.

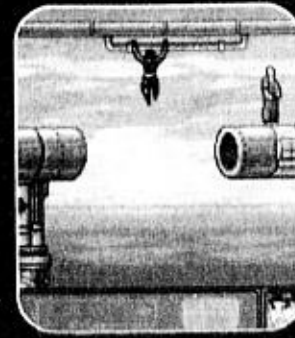
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WILSON.
Feels that
ballads have
more depth
and heart.

By Mona Gonzalez

IT came as no surprise to her friends that singer-composer Jodie Brooke Wilson would one day have her own CD, "Halfway to Paradise." After all, she was to show business born. Her mother is a famous Australian TV and movie actress.

Same agent

When she was eight, Jodie acted in soaps and TV commercials, and shared the same agent with Nicole Kidman. When she turned 14, she taught tap dancing. But it was Jodie's sister who "did" Liza Minnelli's feet.

She explains: "Liza tap-danced in a film, but the sound wasn't loud enough. So, my sister tapped to the video. When they were introduced, the producer said, 'Liza, meet your feet.'"

Jodie's mom sent her to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in England, which became her home. Then, Jodie got sidetracked into composing songs. She has worked with—and composed for—the best.

Theme

Her song "Higher Than Heaven" was featured in the No. 1 double platinum album of "Bardot"—and was the theme of the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Jodie sang her own composition, "Show Me Now," in the blockbuster "Scary Movie." Her best friend, Pam Sheyne, composed "Genie in a Bottle." When Pam won an award for the song, she thanked Jodie and Paul McCartney.

Jodie has met Prince Charles, is in the same tennis club as Matthew Perry, and met David Foster at a party where he high-fived her and said, "Man, you rule!" This was three years back when he heard her song, "Love Called My Name" on an audition track (it's now in her CD). Foster said it was going to be a sure hit. When Jodie asked him which song, he forgot the title, and replied like a typical musician, "The one in the key of G."

In 1993, Jodie sang in the movie "Memphis Belle," starring Billy Zane.

But although she was born in the business, Jodie Brooke Wilson has remained so down-to-earth that you'd need to pinch yourself to remember she's a star. It's like the Oprah phenomenon—everyone believes Oprah is his best friend, her financial empire notwithstanding.

Smile

When she visited Manila recently, we noticed that Jodie's manner of dressing was low-key: sleek, black turtleneck top with black pants, beige boots, maxi light brown coat and beige bag. We didn't notice any jewelry on her. But her eyes shone!

When asked what she likes to spend her money on, she said, "Flowers! I bought loads of roses for my garden." Her garden also has delphiniums and begonias.

"I love bags, but have a lot more shoes," she said. Sometimes, she buys jewelry. A friend tipped her off that jade in the Philippines is great. She planned to stop by Greenhills later in the week.

Jodie is close to her mother. Her CD has a specially loving note for mom, and there's a cut, "Home," which is about her place in Australia. She shed a few tears as she spoke of her mother during our interview.

And what about her music? At a time when divas and pop queens wail and belt, Jodie soothes you with her ballads. "Halfway to Paradise" makes for quiet, easy listening.

Memories

If you're an incurable romantic, you may find yourself listening to her in the dark, in the solace of your bedroom and mixing her lyrics with your memories.

"Halfway to Paradise" is a good CD. The carrier single, "Temporary Madness," is more upbeat than the rest.

It's about infatuation. Jodie says the title comes from a phrase in a movie that starred Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz.

We also like the song "Love Called My Name" (the one David Foster said would be a hit). It's beautiful and creeps up on you in a slow yet pleasant way. A third song I love is "I Can See Forever," which Jodie interprets so well.

And there's "At Seventeen." I was sitting with a bunch of young reporters while the song played in the background. Everyone liked the words. If you've heard the Janis Ian original, you'd understand why. Somebody commented, "It's the 'Gone With The Wind' for women coming of age."

She admits she's not a pop artist, and although she doesn't have anything against pop, she feels that ballads have more depth and heart. When you think of the balladeers of yore, like Karen Carpenter, Eva Cassidy and Norah Jones, you'll be inclined to agree: "Trends don't last that long, but quality does!"

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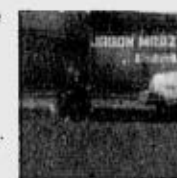
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The All American Rejects
The All American Rejects
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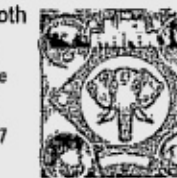
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WALLPAPER: FREE
LYRICS: LY8



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Rocket To Come
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LYRICS: LY9



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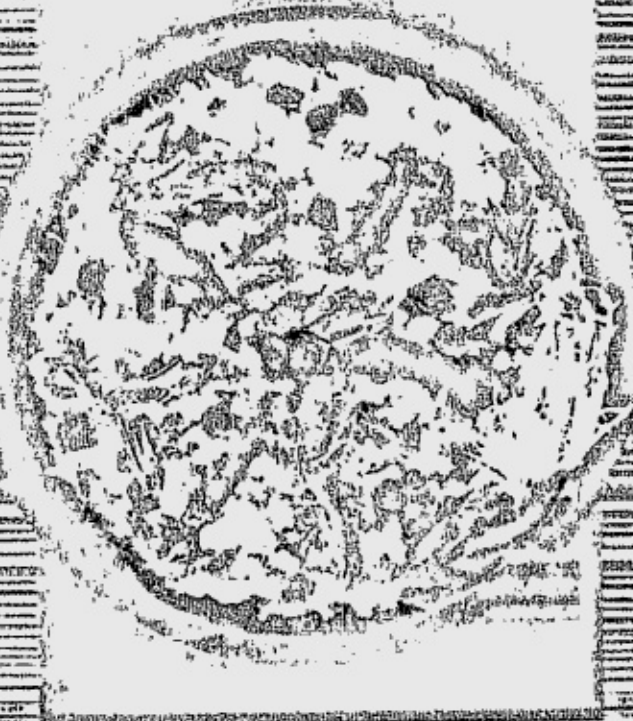
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SATURDAY Special

Hollywood goes on warpath with battle-heavy fall lineup

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES— They'll be fighting on land, on sea, in space, in Middle Earth. Their weapons will include cannons, flamethrowers, swords of all sorts and a guitar case full of guns.

Final chapters

Hollywood goes to war this fall with a bombardment of historical battle epics, contemporary action flicks and sci-fi and fantasy combat, led by the final chapters of two trilogies, "The Matrix Revolutions" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

The lineup is heavy on 19th century military and personal conflicts. Among them:

— A new take on "The Alamo," starring Billy Bob Thornton and Dennis Quaid.

— Russell Crowe as a Napoleonic-era naval captain in "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

— Ron Howard's "The Missing," with Cate Blanchett and Tommy Lee Jones in an Old West thriller about a woman trying to recover her daughter from a cult of desperados.

Sweetheart

— "Cold Mountain," with Jude Law, Nicole Kidman and Renee Zellweger in an adaptation of Charles Frazier's Civil War bestseller about a wounded Confederate soldier struggling his way home to his sweetheart.

— And "The Last Samurai," with Tom Cruise as a disillusioned American officer training Japanese troops in modern warfare in the 1870s.

Director Edward Zwick and producing partner Marshall Herskovitz say Cruise begins as a drunken, soul-sick soldier embittered by U.S. actions in clearing Indians from the American West. He finds redemption in the spirituality of the samurai code and is caught up in a rebellion as feudal Japanese warriors resist the shift to modern combat.

"The Japanese culture, I'm fascinated by it and the purity of what the samurai stands for," said Cruise, who trained for nine months and put on 20 pounds (nine kilograms) of muscle for the film's elaborate sword fights. "Courage, honor, compassion, these are part of the code of the samurai. Honesty and justice. There are so many aspects of that culture worth looking at and paying homage to."

While Cruise plays a fictionalized soldier, the makers of "The Alamo" were dealing with legendary real-life figures who died trying to hold off Mexican forces that outnumbered them 10-to-1.

Own personality quirks

Thornton said he was able to draw on his own personality quirks to capture much of Alamo hero Davy Crockett's eccentricity.

"We're both Leos," Thornton said. "Crockett was kind of a rock star at the time. He was very well known. When he came to town, people knew who he was. Crockett loved people. He loved to hold court and tell stories, which has kind of been my path in a lot of ways."

Thornton appears in three other movies this season. In the dark comedy "Bad Santa," he plays a thief impersonating a mall Santa Claus to carry out a robbery. Thornton has small roles in two romantic comedies: The Coen brothers' "Intolerable Cruelty," starring George Clooney as a crackerjack divorce lawyer and Catherine Zeta-Jones as a "serial divorcee," and "Love Actually," an ensemble tale with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson and Liam Neeson.

"Alamo" producer Brian Grazer also has a busy fall, working on "Intolerable Cruelty," longtime directing partner Howard's "The Missing," and "Dr. Seuss' the Cat in the Hat," starring Mike Myers as the trickster feline from the beloved children's book.

"Mike's fantastic. He's unbelievable," Grazer said. "He was so committed and inhabited the cat in a way that's seamless, but has some of the Mike Myers we all love."

Update

Also in family-flick mode is Steve Martin, who stars in an update of "Cheaper by the Dozen," a parenthood comedy about a couple with 12 kids, and plays the villain in "Looney Tunes: Back in Action," pairing him and Brendan Fraser with Bugs, Daffy and other Warner Bros. cartoon creatures.

"This will probably be considered the biggest performance I've ever given, the most over the top," Martin said. "You're working with Daffy Duck. So what am I going to do, be sensitive?"

While Martin squares off against 'toons, darker tales of personal battle this fall include "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," with Antonio Banderas returning for the final chapter of Robert Rodriguez's "El Mariachi" trilogy about a deadly gunman with a guitar case filled with firearms; "The Rundown," an action comedy starring wrestler The Rock as a hired gun in the Amazon; "Secondhand Lions," featuring Robert Duvall and Michael Caine as curmudgeonly recluses who share stories of youthful adventures in Africa with their great-nephew (Haley Joel Osment); and "Kill Bill, Volume 1," the first chapter of Quentin Tarantino's two-part saga about a hitwoman (Uma Thurman) wreaking havoc on the mentor who tried to kill her.



"MATRIX." Final part of the trilogy is highly anticipated.



"LORD OF THE RINGS." Orlando Bloom appears in the third installment of Tolkien's classic.

Tarantino wrote the part specifically for Thurman, who co-starred in his hit "Pulp Fiction."

Totally different

"It's an amazing way to be in a film. Totally different than being cast or selected after the script's been written," said Thurman, who trained 40 hours a week for three months to handle the movie's martial-arts action. "I'm playing a trained assassin who tries to retire but rather rudely has her resignation not accepted by her boss, who basically tries to knock her off with another assassin."

Part two of "Kill Bill" hits theaters early next year. AP



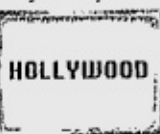
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Festival of European movies opens on Sept. 18

NOW on its sixth year, Cine Europa, the European Union Film Festival, unreeled from Sept. 18 to 28 at SM Megamall. The much-awaited filmfest moves over to Cebu from Oct. 2 to 4, where, in cooperation with the Asia Council, the movies will be screened at SM City Cebu.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Partial schedule of screenings at SM Megamall: Sept. 18, 7 p.m., "The Praying Mantis" (Africa); 9:30 p.m., "Captains of April" (Portugal).

Sept. 19 at 2 p.m., "Adult Behavior" (Sweden); 4:30 p.m., "Magdalene Sisters" (UK); 7 p.m., "The Carriers Are Waiting" (Belgium); 9:30 p.m., "Nowhere in Africa" (Germany).

Sept. 20 at 2 p.m., "The Others" (Spain); 4:30 p.m., "The Handcuff King" (Finland); 7 p.m., "Karnaval" (France); 9:30 p.m., "Profession of Arms" (Italy).

Sept. 21 at 2 p.m., "Zuz & Zo" (Netherlands); 4:30 p.m., "The Praying Mantis" (Austria); 7 p.m., "Captains of April" (Portugal); 9:30 p.m., "Adult Behavior."

Sept. 22 at 2 p.m., "Magdalene Sisters" (UK); 4:30 p.m., "Shades" (Belgium); 7 p.m., "Nowhere in Africa" (Germany); 9:30 p.m., "The Others" (Spain).



CHEEKY Girls perform their hit songs at SM branches.



SALONGA.
Performs with the 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

at 12:45 p.m., "The Money Pit." Sept. 19 at 5:30 p.m., "Awakenings."

'Songs from Home'

Lea Salonga interprets OPM love songs tonight at the PICC in "Songs from Home." She will be performing with the 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Gerard Salonga. Lea's guests are Ariel Rivera and Ogie Alcasid.

Special shows

Aside from their regular gigs, Gladys and the Boxers with K will have special shows at Music Warehouse Meycauayan on Sept. 13 and 17, Music Warehouse Manila on Sept. 20, and Klownz at Araneta Center on Oct. 1 and 15.

Homecoming

The UST College of Architecture's Batch 1983 will hold its alumni homecoming on Nov. 22. A kick-off party will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13 at Via Mare, Penthouse, Tektite Tower, Ortigas Complex. Call 921-3859.

Cheeky Girls

The hitmaking twins of dance, the Cheeky Girls, perform at SM Fairview on Sept. 13, sponsored by 93.9 I FM, and on Sept. 14 at SM Bacoor, sponsored by 101.9 WRR. They will also guest on "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on Sept. 13 to judge the Cheeky Girls Take Your Shoes Off Dance Contest finals.

For more information, check the EU Delegation's website at www.delphi.ccc.eu.int. Screenings are free to the public. Cine Europa 6 is sponsored by SM Megamall, The Podium, Smart Communications, White-Westinghouse, Marithe Francois Girbaud, Eupen AG, and VA Tech.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 13 at 6 a.m., "Hanover Street." Sept. 14 at 2 a.m., "The Original

Kings of Comedy." Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., "Enemy at the Gates." Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m., "A.I., Artificial Intelligence." 11 p.m., "Almost Famous."

Sept. 17 at 11 a.m., "Road to Redemption." Sept. 18 at 9 a.m., "Wit." Sept. 19 at 4:30 p.m., "Sixteen Candles."

On Cinemax: Sept. 13 at 5 p.m., "The Tuskegee Airmen." Sept. 14 at 10:40 p.m., "Foreplay." Sept. 15 at 11 a.m., "The Fabulous Baker Boys." Sept. 16 at 12 noon, "The Rudy Giuliani Story." Sept. 17 at 2 p.m., "Dead Ringers." Sept. 18

Madonna pays lip service to pop princesses

FROM Nona Maria Co: "I am a big pop music fan. It was such a thrill to see Madonna, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera perform 'Like A Virgin' at the MTV Video Music Awards together."

More than two decades after Madonna started shocking people with her racy videos, she still delivers the goods. At the recent MTV Awards, the pop icon showed how she has managed to remain in people's consciousness.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Shaky performance

Despite Madonna's shaky vocal performance (she doesn't have the steel pipes of Whitney or Celine, obviously), she managed to grab our attention—easily—when she paid lip service to pop princesses Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera when she performed "Like A Virgin" and her new single, "Hollywood," with them.

The number was staged to pay tribute to "Like A Virgin," the song that opened the inaugural MTV 20 years ago.

For the Material Girl and the influential music channel, it was a trip down memory lane. But for Britney and Christina, the performance rekindled the rivalry that helped spark media interest in them when they first came to the music scene as solo performers. It has also inspired renewed interest in the two girls, whose careers have been perceived to be underperforming of late.

Stalled

Sales of Spears' third album, "Britney," stalled at four million. While this figure is not bad by any standard, it pales in comparison to her record-breaking debut, "Baby One More Time," which sold 13 million copies in the U.S. alone, and the follow-up, "Oops!...I Did It Again," which sold nine million copies. Guinness World Records 2003 calls her "the best-selling solo teenage artist ever," with record sales exceeding 37 million copies!

Christina, on the other hand, is fighting image problems and sluggish record sales. Her second album, "Stripped," was a commercial flop (it peaked at



SPEARs, Madonna and Aguilera perform "Like A Virgin" at the recent MTV Video Music Awards.

number two and faded fast in the charts).

Her "Dirty" (yes, that's the spelling) topped the UK chart, but could only manage a top 17 showing on Billboard's pop chart. Bitchy industry observers opined that, if Aguilera couldn't get the spelling of her single right, why should her fans bother to buy it?

Even her handlers are concerned about her behavior these days—she smashed her car into a wall minutes after she got her license, posed nude for Rolling Stone magazine, and there is talk of, among other parts of her anatomy, genital piercing! Ouch!

Driving force

At 21, 5'5" tall Britney Spears is a year younger than Aguilera (who's 5'2"). She was the driving force behind the return of teen pop in the late '90s. But she didn't just become a star—she was a bona fide pop phenomenon! After a Star Search appearance, she auditioned for Disney's The Mickey Mouse Club but was turned down because she was too young (eight). Then, she played the lead in the off-Broadway play, "Ruthless."

At 11, she re-auditioned for The MMK and finally

MADONNA/F3

FACE TO FACE



Inday Badiday

INDAY Badiday can't submit her column because she is ill. We request readers to pray for her swift recovery and complete healing.

Seven days with Super!

This week-long launch will leave you Super! exhilarated

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

1 Day 1: Super! Fun Machine

On September 14, Sunday, selected readers and special guests of Super! will enjoy screenings of two movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas 1 and 2. For trendo-philes, there's *Legality Blonde 2*, and for the speed freaks, check out *2 Fast 2 Furious*. There will be games and giveaways for added fun. Cocktails start at three p.m.

4 Day 4: Super! Ghetto Fabulous!

Celebrities, readers, R&B fanatics, breakdancers, homeboys and fly girls will be taking over Absinth in Greenbelt 3 for a night to remember on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 10 p.m.

2 Day 2: Super! Muscle Builder

Sept. 15, Monday, is the day for the athletic. Teams of advertisers and Super! young athletes will compete in fitness games at Play Underground in Powerplant Mall from 6pm onwards. Flex those muscles and start warming up. Super! will push you to the limit.

5 Day 5: Super! X-posed

Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18. In Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate. Games and prizes await the wild and the willing. For your dose of posh R&B, check out Steve Mills at Azzuro@Sommerset, Aguirre Street. Groove amid a plush scene of fun and fab. From 10p.m. onwards.

3 Day 3: Super! Comedy and Karaoke

Celebrities, readers and advertisers will take I.O. and Comfort Room by storm on Tuesday, Sept. 16. In a night packed with music and quality comedy. From 8:30 p.m. onwards.

6 Day 6: The Launch of Super!

This is one Super! weekend you will never forget. Big Fish and Audict mobile, Wrangler, Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of the New World Renaissance with our very own DJ Tuck Cheah at 10 p.m. After party to be announced. Super! surprises await everyone.

7 Day 7: Super! "Circo Loco" with NBK

DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750 at 10p.m. House music, anthems, Latin beats – a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.

*All events are on a first come, first served basis.
Your Super! tips to make sure you make it to the events:

1. Cut out the Super! logo found on the September 13 issue of Saturday Special Super!
2. Be at the gate when it opens on the specified time of the night. (Make sure you're there before the others do.)
3. Register your names to claim your freebies and to be a part of the raffle for the night.
4. Make sure you are identified as a Super! guest so wear your Super! buttons all the time. (Super! buttons will serve as your passport to the other nights.)
5. Have ultimate fun with the other Super! guests all throughout the week. Ain't that Super!?

[illegible]

JOHn Travolta was propelled to stardom by early movies like "Saturday Night Fever" and "Grease," but became a has-been some years later.

Unlike many burned-out stars who never regain lost glory, Travolta beat the odds when he reinvented himself in comeback vehicles like "Pulp Fiction," which quickly made him popular again.

Determined never again to taste the bitterness of failure, the veteran actor has been picking his new projects with extra care. There've been a few major embarrassments, like the messy mistake that was "Battlefield Earth," but on the whole, Travolta has managed to keep his loyal fans happy.

In his latest starrer, "Basic," he plays Tom Hardy, an ex-Army Ranger-turned-DEA agent, who is drawn into the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the feared and hated Sgt. Nathan West (Samuel L. Jackson) and other members of the Elite Forces, from a U.S. Army base near the Panama Canal.

Two recruits are rescued, but each tells a different story about what has happened. Soon, it becomes clear that the training mission they were on was no ordinary exercise, and that a major cover-up has been put in place.

Joining the two stars is an ensemble made up of some of today's most compelling young actors, including Giovanni Ribisi, Taye Diggs and Harry Connick, Jr.

For her part, Salma Hayek had a major critical success in "Frida," but now pays attention to her career as a bankable screen personality with her new movie, "Once Upon A Time in Mexico."



DEPARDIEU. Plays one of the most challenging roles in his career.

In Robert Rodriguez's action epic, Hayek has always enjoyed acting for Rodriguez, so she couldn't pass up reprising the role of Carolina in the movie's flashback scenes. In those flashbacks, the audience learns how El Mariachi (Antonio Banderas) and Carolina fell in love, married and had a child.

Director Rodriguez pays his movie's leading lady the supreme accolade: "Salma is saucy, tough, sexy and funny. She truly represents what I wanted for the character of Carolina, and what Latin cinema should be like."

"Once Upon A Time in Mexico" is more than just the third segment of the



"BASIC." Stars Travolta (left) as an ex-Army Ranger-turned-DEA agent.

 Share Moments. Share Life.®

THIS year's first place awardee for the Palanca Awards' screenplay category, "Mangha," is Jose Maria "Kookie" Manalo. He is based in New York City, USA and is, by profession, a veterinary doctor.

Last May, he came back to the Philippines to bring home the ashes of his mother. On the last day of the Palanca deadline, he decided to join the contest. After getting his script notarized, he realized he had forgotten the address of the Palanca office, so he walked around the Makati area and checked out every building to look for it. He felt it was pure luck that he found it!

Manalo regularly joins writing competitions, but always expects nothing in return. The Palanca is his first major award, so when he learned about it, he packed his bags and flew back here to attend the awarding ceremonies at the Manila Peninsula last Sept. 1.

When his name was called onstage, Manalo felt pride because writing has always been his passion.



MANALO. Would gladly come home for good.

despite his profession as a veterinarian. Shaking the hand of Ricky Lee that night completed something in him. The judges for the Palanca screenplay category were Butch Perez (chairman), Chito Roño, and Johny Delgado.

During his free time, Manalo would visit Pinoy websites to check on any arts-related events or contests. He would even attend Filipino-American festivals in the States.

Jose hopes that the award will open doors for him. If that happens, he says he would gladly come home for good.



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made the cut, alongside future stars—ex-flame Justin Timberlake, Keri Russell and Aguilera. Last year, Spears' feature film debut, "Crossroads," was released. By then, her romance with Timberlake had fizzled. Edgier teen vocalists like Michelle Branch and Avril Lavigne have started to generate more interest among the teenage set.

Christina Aguilera's foray into the scene was not as spectacular. But Aguilera is a technically skilled singer with a genuinely powerful voice. She belts out dance tunes with as much ease and panache as she does ballads. Her parents are of Irish-Ecuadorian stock. Her father's military career meant the family had to move a lot.

Aguilera recorded "Reflection" for "Mulan," and that led to a hit debut album. It contained her breakthrough single, "Genie in a Bottle," followed by other hits ("I Turn To You," "Come On Over" and "What a Girl Wants").

Soon after, she won a Grammy for Best New Female Artist, an award for which Britney was not even nominated. She may have

recorded a Spanish-language collection of her hits, "Mi Reflejo," but she had to learn the lyrics phonetically because, despite her roots, she didn't speak the language.

She enjoyed a transatlantic hit with a cover of "Lady Marmalade," with Li'l Kim, Mya and Pink for "Moulin Rouge."

In November, Britney will release her fourth album, featuring collaborations with P Diddy and Moby. She will even rap in one of the tracks, prompting P Diddy to applaud her brave effort as "Combustionable!" *Huh?*

Aguilera is currently promoting a funky, dance hip-hop single with Lil' Kim ("Can't Hold Us Down") and an extensive nationwide tour with Britney's ex, Justin.

Write Britney: P.O. Box 192730,
San Francisco CA 94119-2730.
Write Christina: 244 Madison ave.,
Suite 314, New York, NY 10016.

Our play, Lorca's "The Butterfly's Evil Spell," directed by Jose Estrella for Dulaang U.P., opened this week for a three-week run, in English and Filipino. Call 926-1349.

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SATURDAYSpecial



'The record company did not turn a pop singer into a crooner. This is who I've been my whole life'

Michael Bublé

is as charming as he's talented

By Rito P. Asilo

MICHAEL Bublé enters the room with his version of "Sway" in the background. Then he literally sways to his music before he sits on the couch to greet everybody a warm hello. Right on cue, the ladies start to swoon.

In person

We know that Bublé, who's in town for a concert at the PICC on Sept. 18, comes across like a boy band member with a crooner's voice. But meeting him in person, you can understand how he "modernizes" the package with infectious, playful energy, and an endearing modesty and natural charisma you don't readily detect in his photos.

He says he wants everybody to feel at ease with him. He knows how it is to be constantly told that he'd never make it because of his choice of songs. To have the kind of success that he's enjoying now is a blessing he's deeply thankful for.

He explains: "I don't take things for granted. When I feel like complaining because I'm tired, I tell myself, 'Shut up!' I know there are so many people more talented than I am who won't get the kind of breaks that have come my way."

Captivating sensitivity

Michael attributes his captivating sensitivity to his family—his grandfather, specifically, whom he describes as "my best friend."

"When everyone told me that my kind of music was old, tired and conservative, that I'd be better off to sing with the Backstreet Boys, my grandpa told them they were wrong. That made me emotionally fragile," he says.

The old guy would offer his plumbing services to musicians for free, if they would let the young Michael sing with them onstage for a few minutes.

"He was the first one to learn about my record deal. He came to my room and said, 'Sunshine, you are now officially with Warner Bros.!' he recalls.

When asked why his grandfather called him "Sunshine," he explains readily, with a dazzling smile, "Because he can't live without me." And of course, the was a collective gasp and a loud "Aww!" in the room. Indeed, the guy knows how to charm.

If he were to choose five songs to record, what would they be? He says the list would include "My Funny Valentine," "The Nearness of You," "Fly Me To The Moon," "Stardust" and "Dream."

His top three romantic songs are

MICHAEL/G2

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Come Fly With Me
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Metamorphosis
Hilary Duff
So Yesterday
Keyword: soyesterday



All American Rejects
All American Rejects
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Keyword: swingswing



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John Trones
Say Goodnight
Keyword: saygudnyt



Heaven
Nina
Simula
Keyword: simula



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| 2 A.K.A.:
Almost Kinda Acoustic
Various Artists | 9 Bling Bling
Various Artists | 18 In Concert
Josh Groban |
| 3 Nyoy Volante
with Mannos
Nyoy Volante
keyword: simplelang | 10 Dangerously In Love
Beyoncé Knowles | 19 Come Away With Me
Norah Jones |
| 4 Michael Bublé
Michael Bublé
keyword: come fly | 11 Follow Your Heart
Carol Banawa | 20 Close Up Presents
Break Barriers
Various Artists |
| 5 Bigotilyo
Parokya Ni Edgar | 12 The Art Of
Letting Go
Various Artists | 21 Let Me Be The One
Jimmy Bondoc |
| 6 The Piano Player
Maksim
keyword: cubana | 13 Beautiful Because
Love Is
Various Artists | 22 Forward
John Trones
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| 7 Heaven
Nina
keyword: simula | 14 Josh Groban
Josh Groban | 23 All American Rejects
All American Rejects
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"STAR IN A MILLION" contestants will compete for the chance to be a recording star this month.

Young talents on the rise

By Nestor U. Torre

TODAY'S entertainment audience has been perceived to be less "loyal" than fans in the past, so show biz producers are busy trotting out new talents to keep viewers and listeners continually interested in their productions.

Next film

In "X-Men," James Marsden was noticed by viewers when he played Cyclops. In his next film, "Interstate 60," Marsden gets to play an even bigger and more attention-calling role. He's clearly a young star on the rise.

Singing star and scion Enrique Iglesias makes his transition from music to film in Robert Rodriguez's "Once Upon a Time in Mexico." He plays one of El Mariachi's sidekicks (El Mariachi is portrayed by Antonio Banderas).

Since his first album came out in 1996, Enrique has won a number of music awards and sold more than 35 million records. Now that he's an international singing star, Enrique is bent on conquering the world of film. Let's hope his supporting role as Lorenzo in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" gets the process going for him.

Offbeat portrayal

For his part, Seann William Scott follow up on his recent appearance in the Chow Yun-Fat starrer, "Bulletproof Monk" with an off-beat portrayal in "The Rundown," starring Dwayne Johnson *aka* The Rock.



JOEM (right, with Charo Santos-Concio), new contract talent of Star records.

In the film, Scott plays a sassy double dealer named Travis whose father has commissioned bounty hunter Beck (The Rock) to go on a mission for him. Travis' motor mouth, reluctance to leave and generally messy ways make the mission much more difficult than it should be, so he soon gets on Beck's bad side.

On the distaff side, Eva Mendes has received the most attention for her role opposite Denzel Washington in the Oscar winner, "Training Day." Now, in "2 Fast 2 Furious," she portrays undercover agent Monica Fuentes. It was her loyalty to director John Single-

ton that made her do the role. In between her movie assignments, Eva joins Julianne Moore and Halle Berry in representing Revlon Cosmetics in print and television commercials.

On the local entertainment scene, new singer Joem has been signed up by ABS-CBN. Present at the contract-signing were Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN EVP for Entertainment; Enrico Santos, Managing Director for Star Records; Cory Vidanes, SVP for television production, and Joem's manager, Dondon Monteverde.

Singing champion

"Star For A Night" singing champion Sarah Geronimo will star in her first major concert, "Popstar: A Dream Come True," on Oct. 4 at Music Museum. And her first solo album has just been released.

Sarah is only in her mid-teens, but big things have already been happening to her, so industry observers predict that she's destined to become a big star in the years to come.

Finally, five new singers are starting their own journey to stardom, this time via "ASAP Mania's" "Star in A Million" talent search. They started competing on the show last Sept. 7, and one of them will emerge as the monthly winner at the end of September, and compete in the grand finals at the end of the year.

This month's contenders are Erik Santos, Vanessa Frayco, Johann Escañan, Odhalea Gonzales and Paul Belen. May the best singer win!

Michael Bublé is as charming as he's talented

From page G1

"Melancholy Baby," "You Always Hurt the One You Love" and "Daddy's Little Girl" (which his dad used to sing to him and his siblings).

Not as conservative

But make no mistake, he's not as conservative as he seems. "I like to party as much as the next young man. I can be luku-luku. It just happens that I like this kind of music. The record company did not turn a pop singer into a crooner. This is who I've been my whole life," he says.

His musical influences include Elvis Presley, Norah Jones, Josh Groban, Harry Connick, Jr., Diana Krall and Ella Fitzgerald. In fact, he segued into an Eminem number after a few lines of "Fly Me To The Moon," complete with rhythmic popping sounds to prove this—with much aplomb!

In the coming months, his popular album will be re-released, and will include five Christmas songs as bonus tracks. In six months' time, he will start recording his next album which will include a number of his compositions.

He also revealed that one of his closest friends

in Canada, photographer Jonathan Cruz, is a Filipino. "Everytime I ask him to come with me, he'd always say 'Bahala na,' and it was through him that I realized that the kinds of songs that we listen to are the same, we like the mellow tunes. You guys have great singers and great taste," he says. "I grew up with this talented girl with a beautiful voice, and I've been asking David Foster, my friend and mentor, to sign her up, but he hasn't committed yet. But when I checked out Tower Records across the street (the interview took place at Shangri-La Makati), the store had her—Beverly Staunton's (an up-and-coming jazz singer who won big at the recent UK Music Awards with "Escape Me Now")—album!" he beams.

Favorite book

His favorite film is "Princess Bride" (he even acted out some scenes from the movie). When asked about his favorite book, he says he mostly reads comics, and loves Michael Moore's (the Oscar winner who lambasted U.S. Pres. Bush's stand against Iraq) "Stupid White Man." What's in his cd player? Beverly Staunton and Robbie

Williams' swing album, he shares.

Bublé says that as long as you know what you want, and you work hard to get it, there's always hope. "When I met Tony Bennett a couple of days ago, I asked him what the secret of his longevity was. He said that it is in knowing who you are."

"You have to have a sense of your own personal style, it doesn't matter if you're singing a Gershwin tune written in the 1930s or a George Michael song composed in 2003."

Conference

Of course, he couldn't have left the conference room without answering questions about his romantic life. Does he have somebody special? After a meaningful pause, he smiles and says, "No, I don't"—and proceeds to sing "The Girl from Ipanema" and substitutes "Manila" in the lyrics.

We have read that he is a loyal boyfriend to a long-time girlfriend back home. But with a career about to become bigger still in the coming months, who can blame Michael if he fudges that detail—right?

Martin in limited repeat engagement at Onstage

THE FIRST half of 2003 has been astounding for Martin Nievera. As Concert King, he had a total of eight performances at the Big Dome for SRO crowds.

Reunion concert

He shared the stage four times with ex-wife Pops Fernandez last February. It was a reunion concert that toppled previous records at the Araneta Coliseum. They had a matinee and gala show on the same day, and four shows on two consecutive weekends.

Martin and Regine Velasquez achieved the same feat in their own homecoming concerts.

But his biggest achievement thus far was his month-long stint at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas. It was a whole new ballgame for Martin.

Record

Next, Martin conquers Onstage for the third straight year. He holds the record for the longest-running solo concert series in Philippine entertainment



NIEVERA. New concept and more laughter.

history, at the same venue.

For his solo stint, Martin promises new concepts and more laughter. After his last show this month, he will leave for a two-month US concert tour with Pops Fernandez.

"Martin Nievera: Onstage Again" happens on Sept. 13, 19-20 and 26-27 at Onstage, 2nd floor Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati. A production of Maxi-Media International in association with Big Mouth International Inc. Call 896-5610 (Ticketworld) or 551-8999 (Maxi-Media).

Finding fresh seafood

MANY years ago, I ran Aux Iles Philippines in Paris. The family-owned restaurant was my eye-opener to the gastronomic world. I was exposed to various cuisines and learned to really enjoy dining.

Market

My routine would be to wake up at past noon, then go to the market at 5 p.m. to purchase ingredients for the evening. I'd open the restaurant at 7, close at midnight and party till 5 a.m.

One of the things I hated was when I had to wake up at three in the morning to go to Rungis to purchase the month's supply of seafood. Rungis was a cluster of huge buildings—one had all the vegetables, another was for meat, another for seafood, etc.

Most fascinating places

It was one of the most fascinating places in Paris where truckloads of seafood from all over Europe were sold to restaurant chefs. I noticed, though, that none of the seafood we bought was fresh. There were frozen prawns, crab meat and a fish filler called cabillot. They tasted great but still, nothing can beat fresh food.

Recently, some friends from Philippine Airlines (Daylin, Mates and Joey) took me to din-

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza



ner at Seafood Market in Parañaque. It was my first time to see the place. As we walked in, I couldn't help but remember Rungis. The big difference, though, was that the seafood was fresh. Prices were not cheap, but the place had a wide selection. You could choose anything—prawns, shrimps, fish, crabs, scallops, veggies—and the waiters would cook it for you, steamed, stir fried and deep fried.

The place is called "Wok with Liu Kitchenette." We ordered fresh, tiny scallops with broccoli and oyster sauce, fried crab with salt and pepper, steamed lapulapu with spring onions and soy sauce, steamed squid, crunchy green mango with bagoong alamang, and steamed rice. And they were all fresh!

"Wok with Liu Kitchenette" is at the back of Seafood Market in Baclaran. Call 831-8891 or 0917-846-2184.

Happy eating!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 26 - AUG 29									
CH	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM
630	Magandang Gabi, Bayan	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy	7:00 Sailor Moon Sailor Stars	6:00 Search for a Star	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo	6:00 FIBA's America's Qualifying Tournament	6:00 Baywatch	7:00 Xcuse Me Cinema Special	5:30 CBS Evening News
8:00	Hurra Along da Airport	8:00 The Working President	7:30 Mirror, Mirror	6:30 Imbestigador	7:00 7 Days	8:00 Amazing Twins	7:00 Game Plan	9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan	6:00 El News Weekend
9:30	Buttercup	9:00 To Be Announced	8:00 Wow! Maiti	7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap	8:00 John Doe	9:00 World Pool Championship	7:30 The Amazing Race	9:30 Armor of God	8:00 Celebrity Profile
10:30	Kontrotoryal		9:00 Viva Box Office	8:30 Kakabababa	9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	11:00 El Shaddai	8:30 Boston Public	10:00 Oh Tokyo	8:00 El True Hollywood Story
11:30	F		11:00 Go For Gold	9:30 Blockbuster Cinema	11:00 PGMA		9:30 Studio 23 Presents	11:00 Pinay Wrestling	10:00 David Letterman
12:00	Sports Unlimited			11:20 Flash Report			11:30 Real Deal		11:00 Wild On
5:30	Sharon	4:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Zorro	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling	4:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Jimmy Neutron	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series	5:30 CBS Evening News
7:00	Wansapanataym	9:00 The Working President	6:30 Guffyed	7:00 Ki	7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not	9:00 Sinemaks	6:30 Futurama	8:00 Oh Tokyo	6:00 El News Week
8:00	Sunday Family Cinema	10:00 Concert of Various Artists	7:00 Isapuglab	8:30 Daddy Di Do Du	8:00 Maich TV	11:00 Global Family Series	7:00 Exposed	9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 El News Week
11:30	Dang Puno Tonight	Norah Jones	8:00 Sing-Galing	9:30 Sunday Night Box Office	9:00 Sunday's Big Event	11:30 El Shaddai	8:00 Yes Dear		6:30 PVE
12:00	The Weekend News		9:00 Viva Cine Idols	11:20 Flash Report	11:00 Sunday Report		8:30 Spin City		8:00 Rank
			11:00 Speed	11:30 Che-Cho Lazaro Presents			9:00 Will & Grace		9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner
							9:30 The Bachelor		10:00 Movies on E!
							10:30 Digital Tour		
6:00	TV Patrol	6:00 Concert at the Park	6:00 F	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Dulce Maria	6:00 Quantum Info	6:00 Beast Machines	6:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live
6:30	Kay Tagal Kang Hininay	7:00 Strangestrew	6:30 Baitang-Baita	7:00 Lavender	7:00 Just for Lafts	6:30 Global Family Series	6:30 Godzilla	7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30 Behind The Scenes
7:00	Basta! Kasama Kita	7:30 In the Raw	7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka	8:00 Jag	7:00 Japan Video Topics	7:00 Batman	8:00 Q Showcase	7:30 Mysteries & Scandals
7:30	Game K N B?	8:00 TeleDaryo	7:30 Kool on Kam	8:10 Ang ibig ng Ay Ikaw Pa Rin	8:00 The Agency	9:00 Global Family Series	7:30 Samurai X	9:00 Ang Dating Daan	8:00 El True Hollywood Story
8:00	Darating Ang Umaga	10:00 Family Rosary Crusade	8:30 That '70s Show	8:50 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:00 The Agency	9:30 Fight Time at Elorde	8:00 Birds of Prey		9:00 E! News Live
8:30	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	11:00 Auto Focus	9:00 On Air	9:30 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:30 IBC News Tonight	9:00 Charmed		10:00 Best of Late Show
9:00	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss		9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel	11:00 Saksi	10:30 Sex & the City	11:00 IBC News Tonight	10:00 News Central		11:00 Wild On
11:00	Insider		10:00 The Big News	11:30 I-Witness	11:00 OPTV		10:30 Oprah		
11:30	The Correspondents		10:30 Mad TV				11:30 Travel Time		
6:00	TV Patrol	6:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Dulce Maria	6:00 Game Channel	6:00 Beast Machines	6:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live
6:30	Kay Tagal Kang Hininay	7:00 Strangestrew	6:30 Baitang-Baita	7:00 Lavender	7:00 Ed	7:00 9-Ball Bulhard	6:30 Godzilla	7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan	7:00 Extreme Close Up
7:00	Basta! Kasama Kita	7:30 In the Raw	7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka	8:00 Ally McBeal	8:00 Global Family Series	7:00 Batman	8:00 Ang Dating Daan	7:30 Mysteries & Scandals
7:30	Game K N B?	8:00 TeleDaryo	7:30 Kool on Kam	8:10 Ang ibig ng Ay Ikaw Pa Rin	9:00 The Practice	9:00 Japan Video Topics	7:30 Samurai X		8:00 El True Hollywood Story
8:00	Darating Ang Umaga	10:00 The Working President	8:30 Kool on Kam	8:50 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:00 Travel	8:00 Dawson's Creek		9:00 E! News Live
8:30	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	9:00 E R	9:30 Nuts Entertainment	10:30 GSIS & Ur Service	10:30 IBC News Tonight	9:00 Smallville		10:00 David Letterman
9:00	OK Funt! Whatever		10:00 The Big News	11:00 Saksi	11:00 Sports in Focus	11:00 Up Close and Personal	10:00 News Central		11:00 Wild On
11:00	Insider		10:30 Wedding Works	11:30 The Probe Team			10:30 Oprah		
11:30	Mission X		11:00 Bugs				11:30 Twilight Zone		
6:00	TV Patrol	5:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Pyromania	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Dulce Maria	5:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Beast Machines	6:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News
6:30	Kay Tagal Kang Hininay	10:00 MMDA on The Road	6:30 Baitang-Baita	7:00 Lavender	7:00 Malcolm in the Middle	10:00 Breaking Barriers	6:30 Godzilla	7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan	6:30 El News Week
7:00	Basta! Kasama Kita	11:00 Magunay Professional	7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka	7:30 Still Standing	10:30 IBC News Tonight	7:00 Batman	8:00 Ang Dating Daan	7:30 Mysteries & Scandals
7:30	Game K N B?	11:30 Unlimited Driving	7:30 Kool on Kam	8:10 Ang ibig ng Ay Ikaw Pa Rin	8:00 Roswell		7:30 Samurai X		8:00 El True Hollywood Story
8:00	Darating Ang Umaga		8:30 Guinness World Records	8:50 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:00 Everwood		8:00 Barkada Nights		9:00 E! News Live
8:30	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas		9:00 Friends	9:30 Nuts Entertainment	10:00 Newswatch Now		8:00 News Central		10:00 David Letterman
9:00	Maabala Mo Kay		10:00 The Big News	11:00 Saksi	10:30 Hidden Hills		10:30 Oprah		11:00 Wild On
11:00	Insider		10:30 By Request	11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	11:00 Saksi		11:30 Twilight Zone		
11:30	Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat								
6:00	TV Patrol	5:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Fancy Lala	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Dulce Maria	5:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championships	6:00 Beast Machines	6:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News
6:30	Kay Tagal Kang Hininay	10:00 The Working President	6:30 Baitang-Baita	7:00 Lavender	7:00 The Pretender	10:00 Entrepreny	6:30 Godzilla	7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan	6:30 El News Week
7:00	Basta! Kasama Kita	11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka	8:00 Just for Lafts	11:00 IBC News Tonight	7:00 Batman	8:00 Ang Dating Daan	7:30 Mysteries & Scandals
7:30	Game K N B?		7:30 Kool on Kam	8:10 Ang ibig ng Ay Ikaw Pa Rin	8:30 Dharma & Greg	12:00 PSA Fiesta Fisliana	7:30 Samurai X		8:00 El True Hollywood Story
8:00	Darating Ang Umaga		8:30 Guinness World Records	8:50 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:00 Dead Zone		8:00 Barkada Nights		9:00 E! News Live
8:30	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas		9:00 Friends	9:30 Bubble Gang	10:00 Newswatch Now		8:00 The X-Files		10:00 David Letterman
9:00	Star Cinema Presents		10:00 The Big News	11:00 Saksi	10:30 TV Greats on Friday		10:00 News Central		11:00 Wild On
11:00	Insider		10:30 Friday Box Office	11:30 Emergency			10:30 Oprah		
11:30	Isyu						11:30 Twilight Zone		

New Parokya ni Edgar album is sublimely silly

By Noelani Torre

AFTER 10 years of listening to their musical wisecracking, we thought we'd finally outgrown the Parokya ni Edgar band. But as we found ourselves having a good time as song after song of their new album, "Bigotilyo," unfolded, we knew we were dead wrong.

Elements

There's no outgrowing catchy tunes, black humor and, though we may hesitate to admit it, just plain silliness—elements which "Bigotilyo" (Universal Records) has in spades, as did all previous Parokya ni Edgar albums.

"Bigotilyo" is the band's sixth offering, and it's already well on its way in following the platinum footsteps of "Edgar Edgar Musikahan" (2002), "Gulong Idog Gulong" (1999), "Jingle Balls, Silent Night, Holy Cow" (1998), "Burguduystunstudunstuduy" (1998), and "Khankhungkherrnitz" (1996).

The band grew moustaches for this album—hence the title "Bigotilyo"—to underscore the record's old-school feel. Leave it to Parokya ni Edgar to find

new avenues for absurdity.

Carrier single

Carrier single "Mr. Suave," which rose to number one in the charts as soon as it was released, is reminiscent of the '60s and '70s, and, sung as it is in a serious and deliberately "suave" style, will have you giggling in no time.

Like their other albums (who can forget Cake's "I Will Survive" re-worded as "Picha Pie"?), Parokya includes a parody or two in their repertoire—re-wordings of Yano's "Banal na Aso, Santong Kabayo" and Mike Hanopol's "Katawan."

The former becomes "Chikinini"—



"BIGOTILYO." Constructed along simple melodic lines.

and from that, you can more or less guess what the song's about—and the latter is retained in its entirety except for certain ribald modifications. We must note that the band has taken to un-censoring their lyrics (no more double-meaning "birdies"), so put on your headphones when young, impressionable ears are around.

Another new thing in this album is Parokya's foray into rap in the song "The Yes Yes Show." It starts off with a surprisingly straightforward bit of rap (in English), care of singer/songwriter Chito. The band just couldn't take themselves seriously, so the song becomes a slinging match between the two singers—Chito and Vinci—with the latter letting loose with some of the most wince-inducing rap lines we've heard.

Rap absurdity

It's deliberate, of course, so you'll find yourself laughing at the rap absurdity of "My name is Vinci, and I am neat. / I love pretty girls and I love to eat! / I made this rap from my mind, and I am very, very kind!"

Black humor can be found in the song "Iwanan Mo Na Siya," what with the singer heaping insults on his love's boyfriend—"Nakita ko siya dati, / Nagtitinda ng drugs sa kalye" and "Sindikato tatay nyan / Kaya siguro siya mayaman"—but in the end, sighing, "Sapagkat mahal kita / At walang ibang magawa / Kundi sirain ang pangalan niya...sinta."

The album is balanced by other, more "serious" songs, like album opener "Alumni Homecoming," the Rico Blanco-enhanced "Absorbing Man," "Sad Trip" (both written by guitarist Gab Cheekee), and album-ender "Ted Hannah."

Still, even at their most sober, the band can't seem to let go of their fun-loving natures, so there's always this underlying thread of irreverence running through all of the songs.

Extras

Like all of their other releases, you'll get a few unlisted extras between tracks. It's the usual clowning around, which some may find more irritating than funny, but we get a nice, quiet bite-sized song at the end.

"Bigotilyo" is an album constructed along simple melodic lines, something that we're sure the band's guitar-strumming fans will appreciate, but it is saved from musical mediocrity by the distinctive Parokya flavor that draws audiences from all walks of life.

With this album, Parokya ni Edgar shows us that after ten years in the biz, they still haven't grown up, and that, for now, is a good thing.

'Dickie Roberts' tops box office

LOS ANGELES—Former "Saturday Night Live" funnyman David Spade led the pack at the North American box office this weekend, playing a celebrity has-been out to reclaim his career, according to preliminary figures released Sunday.

Debut weekend

"Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" earned an estimated seven million dollars in its debut weekend, box office trackers Exhibitor Relations said.

The ancient flesh-eating beast in "Jeepers Creepers 2"

slipped to second place this weekend, with an estimated \$6.7 million.

Johnny Depp's seadogs sailed into third with \$5.4 million for "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl." Disney scored its own box office treasure with the adventure flick, which has stayed in the top 10 for its entire nine-week run.

"Freaky Friday," Jamie Lee Curtis's remake of the 1970s picture, telling the story of a mother and daughter who magically switch bodies, landed in fourth place with \$5.1 million. **AFP**

Scott, Gale helm films about self-discovery

By Nestor U. Torre

ACE action-drama director Ridley Scott has his choice of the best projects in Hollywood, so when he directs a new movie, we can be pretty sure that it has a lot going for it.

Clueless people

Take Scott's latest, "Matchstick Men." On the surface, it's about two con men (Nicolas Cage and Sam Rockwell) who fleece a number of clueless people by selling them cheap water filters at 10 times their value, in order to win prizes like cars, jewelry and overseas vacations.

Of course, they never collect on the non-existent prizes, because the small-time con men leave town before the ruse is up.

So far, so mean-spirited and small-minded. But Scott slowly adds more layers to his protagonist to make him much more interesting and challenging than he initially seems to be.

Cage's character turns out to be claustrophobic, a chain smoker and a loner who has a teenage daughter, whose existence he's never dared confirm. But the 14-year-old-girl (Alison Lohman) desperately wants to meet the father she's never known, so he can no longer postpone the inevitable.

Disreputable career

At first, she disrupts his loner existence. Soon, however, he begins to enjoy this new relationship, as he belatedly has paternal feelings for his daughter.

Trouble is, she develops a fascination for his disreputable career. She insists that he teach her some of the tricks of his con-artist trade. Much against his better judgment, he finally obliges—and to his surprise, pride and dismay, she demonstrates a remarkable gift for his line of "work."

Like a kid with a new toy, she wants in on the partnership. But that could seriously jeopardize



CAGE. Plays a con man in Ridley Scott's "Matchstick Men."

his peace of mind—not to mention his whole way of life.

As you can see, "Matchstick Men" turns out to be about much more than small-time cheats. Trust Ridley Scott not to settle for the shallow and the obvious.

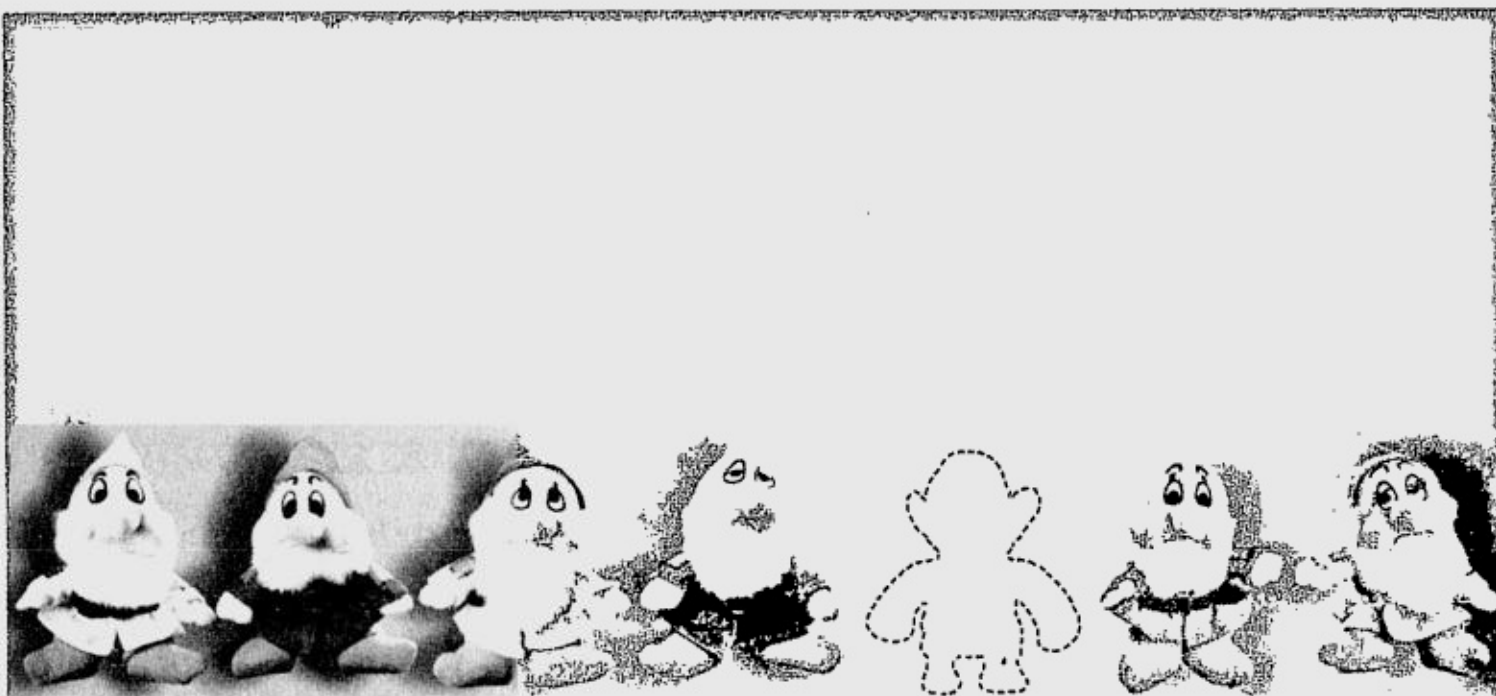
For his part, writer-director Bob Gale, who wrote the "Back to the Future" film series, has come up with a "search" format for his latest movie, "Interstate 60." It's about a young man (James Marsden) and his soul-searching journey full of what-ifs and maybes that help him figure out who he really is.

Steadfast

On the way to self-discovery, he is framed for murder, chased by the cops, robbed, cheated and thrown in jail. But he remains steadfast in his pursuit for answers, and to the girl of his dreams, who speaks to him from billboards and visits him in his sleep.

It turns out that the highway he travels doesn't exist on any map. So, the young protagonist's journey is a symbolic voyage, the meaning of which is at least potentially more significant than what could be derived from a more reality-based experience.

"Matchstick Men" and "Interstate 60" may first appear to be radically different from each other, but it turns out that they share an interest in the same themes—what lies beyond the apparent, the gradual revelation of secrets, and the healing that comes from the discovery that even the worst of men are capable of redemption.



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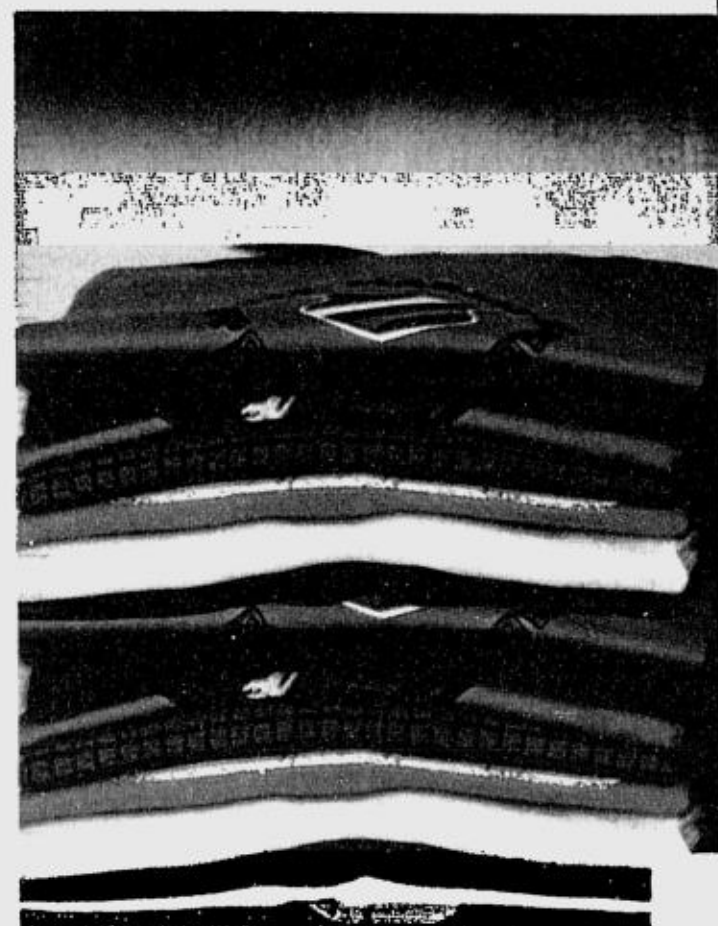
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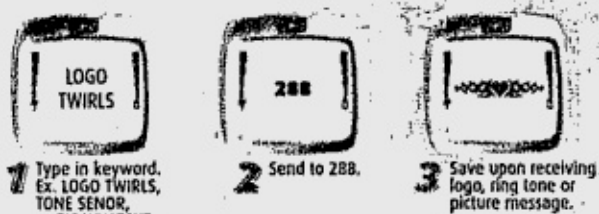
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Title	Artist
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Panaginip	Jolina Magdangal
Wala Kang Katulad	Ariel Rivera
Not Gonna Get Us	TATU
Ang Tipa Kong Lalake	Deejay Alvaro
Here We Are	F4
My Friend	Vaness Wu
Lets Get Retarded	Black Eyed Peas
We Are The Champions	Queen
Bootylicious	Destiny's Child
Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb
Can't Lose You	F4
Broken Vow	Lara Fabian
In Da Club	50 Cent
I Know What You Want	Busta Rhymes And Mariah
A.D.I.D.A.S.	Killer Mike
Stuck	Stacie Orrico
Gimme The Light	Sean Paul
Unwell	Matchbox 20
Beautiful	Snoop Dogg Feat. Pharrell
What To Say	Ric Sigreto
My Immortal	Evanesence
Sunrise	Simply Red
Crazy In Love	Beyonce
Real	Plumb
Kumukutikutitap	Joey Albert
Buffalo Soldier	Bob Marley
Here With Me	Dido
Work It Out	Beyonce
So Into You	Fabulous And Ashanti

Keyword
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TONE PANAGINIP
TONE WHATULAD
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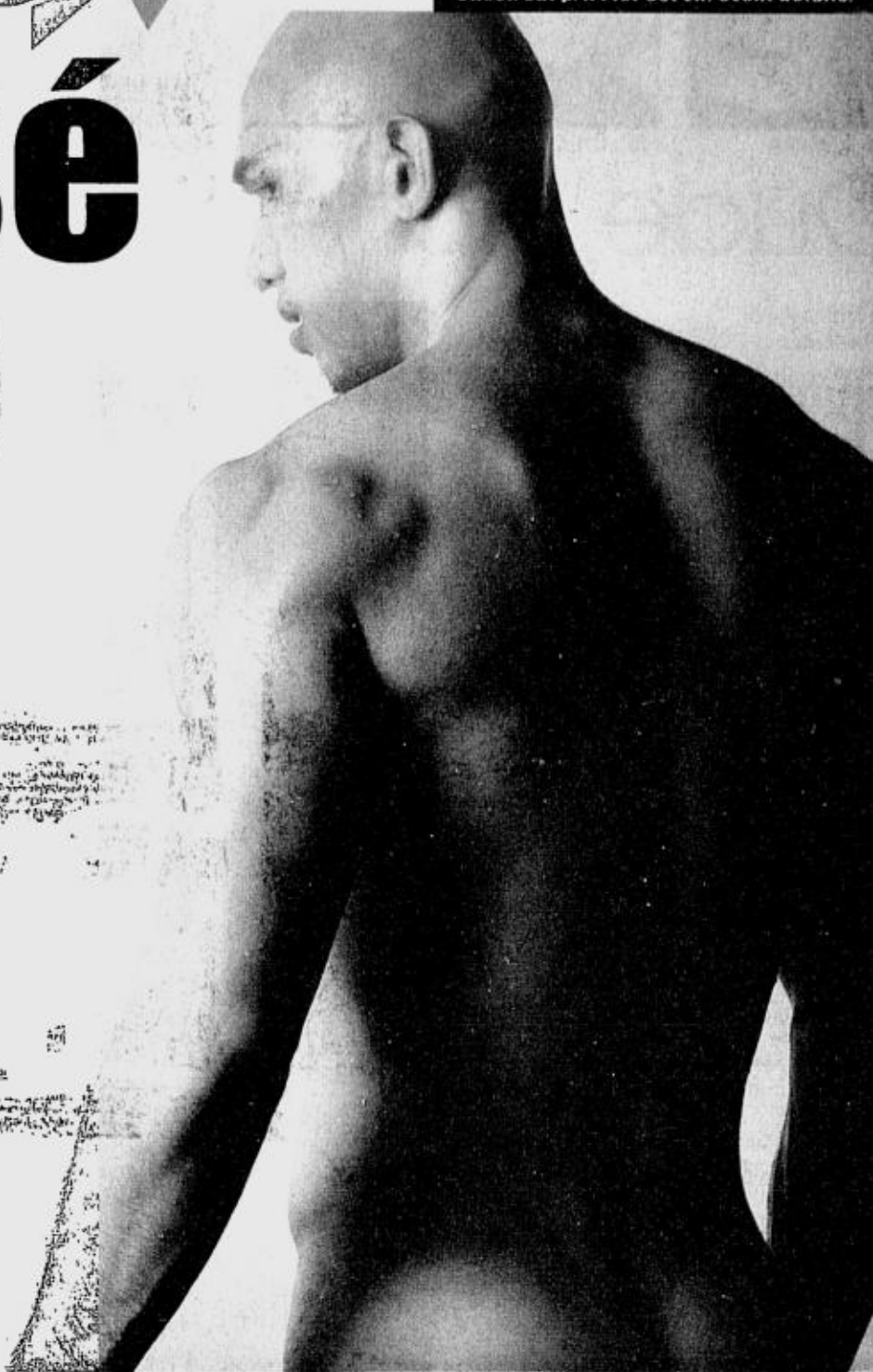
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Check out p. K4 for SUPER! event details.

**Who do you
think you are,
Tessa Prieto
Valdes?**
page K3

**Think of
OLD**
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u call 2day?

**Dude, not
Ashton
Kutcher**
page H2

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**The new fierce
Females**
page H2

**What's your
FONDEST
childhood
memory?**

**Michael Bublé
Sunshine man**
page K3

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Super! is the new cool. | 2 Next is the new now. |
| 3 Men are the new women. | 4 Conformity is the new rebellion. |
| 5 Gay is the new straight. | 6 Exercise is the new ecstasy. |
| 7 Nerds are the new rockstars. | 8 Tsinelas are the new stilletos. |
| 9 Decency is the new decadence. | 10 Sex is still better than chocolate. |

**DLSU
VS. ADMU
Mad hoops**
page H1

**IF YOU WERE
A SEASON,
WHAT SEASON
WOULD WE HAVE
AROUND YOU**

Photo by Paolo Pinada
Model: Jeff Misolas
Shot on location at The Spa,
Bakur, Makati City

**Lucky
Manzano
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page H1

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PAUL Walker



NICHOLAS Cage



JOSH Hartnett



BRENDAN Fraser



JUDE Law



BEN Affleck

Dude, not Ashton Kutcher!

By Jenina F. Alli
Contributor

THERE'S no question about it. After the superhero movie revival that followed the Batman series, it should only be a matter of time before people start downloading trailers of the new "Superman" movie.

A decade and a half after the last installment to the Reeve-starring series, the obvious question is: Who's next? And Warner Brothers folks better answer soon, because the obvious fact is: It's high freakin' time!

The first guy Warner tapped to play Superman was Nicholas Cage. If he had signed on, it would have presented major problems to the styling department. With this guy, faster than a speeding bullet is his increasingly receding hairline, which has backed up so much that it's taken on the dimensions of a hotel driveway... you can almost see a Lincoln pulling up and an ambassador stepping out.

But that was a long time ago, when Tim Burton was slated to take the director's chair. With present rumors pointing to McG (Charlie's Angels) as the new helmsman, countless Hollywood hunks have been tested or considered to don the red cape.

There's Paul Walker, who's turned more than his fair share of heads in the "Fast and Furious" series. Although it has been decided during serious bouts of coffee by people in no way connected to Warner Brothers—and who in fact have no role whatsoever in the making of the "Superman" film (a.k.a. me and my friends)—that Mr. Walker would be more



HUGH Jackman

Search is on for the next man to don the red cape and those spankin' blue tights.



TOM Welling



ASHTON Kutcher

suited to sporting the underwater sonar skills of Aquaman.

Others who, at one time or another, found their names on the short list were Josh Hartnett (too farmer boy), Brendan Fraser (weak jaw, not enough cheek bone) and Jude Law (too much cheek bone).

Meanwhile, the cup for Lois Lane potentials runneth over with Tinseltown's crop of spunky brunettes. Sandra Bullock and Ashley Judd would be good choices if only it weren't so cliché. The original brunette bombshell Demi Moore might just cinch it. This '80s brat-packer, with a newly sculpted and lipo-hoovered bod, plus a twentysomething boytoy for a fabulous arm sling, proves something that could only be articulated in local parlance: *May asim pa ang lola niyo!*

There's no shortage on Lex Luthors, either. John Malkovich could step up for sheer mastery of the subtle Machiavellian gesture. But it would be a very long movie involving lots of sarcastic dialogue. Kevin Spacey could be just as menacing, but he'd look like a death row escapee if he got his head shaved. Unadorned malevolence married to a head that can dignify a state of hairlessness, however, puts Jeremy Irons—after five Botox sessions—at

the frontline. If he is anywhere to be found, that is. Which brings us to another Brit, Ralph Fiennes. He looks kick-ass in a suit, he makes evil totally classy, and he can bring that tragic antagonist, my-daddy-made-me-this-way bit to the role.

As equally merited as all the Lois and Lex runners are, no one's gonna be getting any contracts soon because of the one role that's impossible to cast.

The general consensus seems to be geared toward tapping an unknown, much the same way that Reeve was ushered in by the Superman franchise. But it's not a fool-proof formula, casting a new face, as seen in the ho-hum reception to "The Hulk." They can probably try "Smallville's" Tom Welling. But if he bombs, he'll be lucky to get a job as an Ambercrombie model afterward. Case in point: How thrilled do you think a post-Lois-and-Clark Dean Cain was after Ripley's called in to say, "Yes, Mr. Cain, you've landed the job of announcing the world's biggest pecan pie?"

There's another contender, though, whose name's just in. Gossip says McG has asked Demi for the boyfriend's number for a possible casting call. That's right, Ashton Kutcher. The guy who plays "That '70s Show's" bell-bot-

tombed village idiot, Kelso. Well, sure, "Matrix" did wonders for Keanu after his Bill and Ted misadventures, but... THIS IS SUPERMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! A pop culture icon nearly as old as Chaplin and expected to be around long after there exists a generation that can legitimately ask, "Madonna who?"

Oh, all right, already. So he's easy on the eyes. So he has the height; then again, so does Ru Paul. Okay, maybe it's not fair to dismiss Demi's little Lolito just yet. If he pulls it off, major snaps to him. Hollywood would have just affirmed its ability to turn lima beans into Maraschino cherries.

But it's a gamble that doesn't make sense.

The thing with Kutcher is, he's not a relative unknown, and we have yet to see him in a role that doesn't require breathing with his mouth open. If it has to come down to that, then Warner just might as well cast certified crowd drawers. Like maybe golden boy du jour Ben "The Jaw" Affleck. Or Aussie hottie Hugh Jackman. After all, it is a much more redemptive thing to utter, "But he's in Daredevil!" or "But he's Wolverine!" than, say, "But he's in Dude, Where's My Car?"

Ashton Kutcher... that's just... that's just NO.



WHO among them will play me?



SANDRA Bullock



ASHLEY Judd



DEMI Moore

The new fierce females

THERE is a legend among my male peers that always seems to resurrect itself when we reminisce about our crazy old college days. It is the true-to-life tale of a bar room brawl that happened many years ago in a now defunct pub in Makati, a former favorite, yet the contenders weren't the usual suspects of drunken, testosterone-raging guys beating each other to a pulp on the bar floor. The brawlers were two svelte, long-haired females, one of which was a budding starlet and MTV veejay at the time. Their long nails were unsheathed to the fullest scratching power, and after a round of fiery obscenities, they were tearing at each other all over the beer-stained floor. In another version, there was some shirt-ripping into varying degrees of dishabille involved. In yet another embellished yarn, the wet floor soaked their shirts into semi-transparent garb, but the girls didn't care, since their prime concern was to sever each other's heads.

My guy friends look back on that catfight with so much fondness, manifest in long, wistful sighs. It was as if all the constellations in the universe had aligned themselves perfectly that night if only, but for a fleeting moment in time, to seamlessly merge the elements of an über-male fantasy: two sweaty chicks, violence, exposed skin and beer. Throw in Aubrey Miles into the melee, and FHM would have had enough material for years.

Though it is a generally accepted belief that catfights are predominantly a male fantasy, some of my closest female friends have admitted in the past that they fantasized about catfights, too. But not in the same way that guys do when they're alone at night. It's the healthier fantasy of being one of the fighters in the claw-fest. It isn't merely for the heck of beating the living daylight out of another female; rather, it is the desire for an honest, in-your-face payback scheme for times past



Tais Diaz

when another female had slandered, screwed or smote theirs or their friend's honor.

For me, this signifies today's sexual revolution, the blurring lines between men and women that does not exactly lead to extreme gender poles. For just as soccer superstar David Beckham can bend gender lines by proudly wearing sarong in public, pay his personal hairdresser good money, and still manage to embody male sex appeal, more women today are pumped up for some fierce action. Welcome the advent of the tough chick.

'Testrosexuals'

Beckham is known to be the vanguard of Metrosexuality, or this decade's label for straight men who openly adopt female penchants for grooming and dressing. That said, I'd like to offer my own moniker for heterofemales who embrace the masculine attributes of toughness, assertiveness and strength of will, without giving up their favorite lipstick shade. I call these girls "testrosexuals," having a healthy mix of testosterone plus estrogen

in their system.

Here is a breed of females who have managed to marry feminine flair and sex appeal with a fierceness that precludes taking crap from anyone. Testrosexual girls who may have been touted before as "one of the guys," have trashed the prissy, damsel-in-distress image of Maria Clara and opted for a twentysomething Gabriela Silang in a miniskirt, brandishing a blade. Nowadays, to be tagged "girly-girl" is a big insult, for this is being lumped with those types with perfectly conditioned, untangled hair, who giggle coyly at the mere reference to sex and yet secretly idolize that whore Samantha in "Sex in the City," who always expect the guys to pay; and who seem to have an innate fear of going to a public bathroom alone.

Testrosexuals, on the other hand, are definitely not butch, but neither are they annoying ultra-feminists who despise men, grow their armpit hair and refuse to wear "society's shackle" that is the bra in spite of the threat of banana boobs (sagging breasts). Testrosexuals blend eyeshadow perfectly and wear spaghetti-strap dresses, yet they won't take blatant harassment like martyrs. When called for, they can defend themselves against predatory males with a neat little round-house kick in the groin.

Testrosexuality likewise diverges from the past generations' traditional view of the ideal lady. Our mothers before us would never, ever have dreamed of being the first one to phone a guy to ask them out, much less share a few beers and a pizza while shouting for blood at the URRC and Fearless bouts. More girls today have adopted an empowered mentality that, in truth, has a sexiness all its own.

On the Big Screen

The emergence of famous testrosexuals has engendered something that I think is quite a rare phenomenon, and that is shared viewing pleasure over females that transcend gender predisposition. Tough chicks on the big screen are vastly entertaining to watch, for both guys and girls. This I could attest to when I used to watch Sarah Michelle Gellar and Eliza Dushku, a.k.a. the vampire slayers Buffy and Faith, slug it out to the endless enjoyment of both my ex-boyfriend and myself (I always cheered for Faith).

Other celebrity testrosexuals on my list would be the nasal-talking toughie Michelle Rodriguez, who trash-talked the local surfer boys and still looked bitchin' in a string bikini in "Blue Crush." She souped up her engine and donned the dog tag in "The Fast and the Furious." Zhang Ziyi can slice you into a thousand paper-thin pieces and come off looking every inch the high school chinita "Crush ng Bayan." Kelly Hu, the Lady Deathstrike of "X-Men United" and the bad girl alongside Mark Dacascos in "Cradle 2 the Grave" is a black-belter in Kanzen Budokai karate. While baring her cleavage recently on the cover of Maxim magazine, she still admitted being "an introverted homebody." Then there's the tom-raiding silicone wonder that is Lara Croft. Recently, I was lucky enough to catch a Cartoon Network toontime interview of Buttercup, the green Powerpuff girl,



WHO is Kelly Hu?

and discovered that she too was testrosexual. Apparently, Buttercup is a raspy-voiced tough chick who, when asked what was the best thing about being a Powerpuff girl, answered: "I like using my fists a lot!" against her nemesis Mojo Jojo and the Gangrene Gang. Oh, and apparently, she is also the stunt double for girly-girl Blossom.

New Attitude

The emergence of the testrosexual female offers a valuable insight into the changing image of the ideal girl of the modern world, one that can gracefully tread the Zen-like middle path of strength and sensitivity, whether in high heels or hiking boots. Yet

the best thing about this paradigm shift is the dawning of a New Attitude, that of fearlessness that is made manifest not only in immersion in physically demanding activities, such as martial arts, rock climbing, triathlons, deep-sea diving and late-night lambanog-guzzling. Beyond these, it is more of a deepening inner strength and confidence to take on what the world has to offer. It is imbuing courage and a proactive spirit that won't wait for guys to open doors to adventure for her. This new mind-set is tough enough to overcome the greatest of fears, including venturing into a public bathroom alone.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

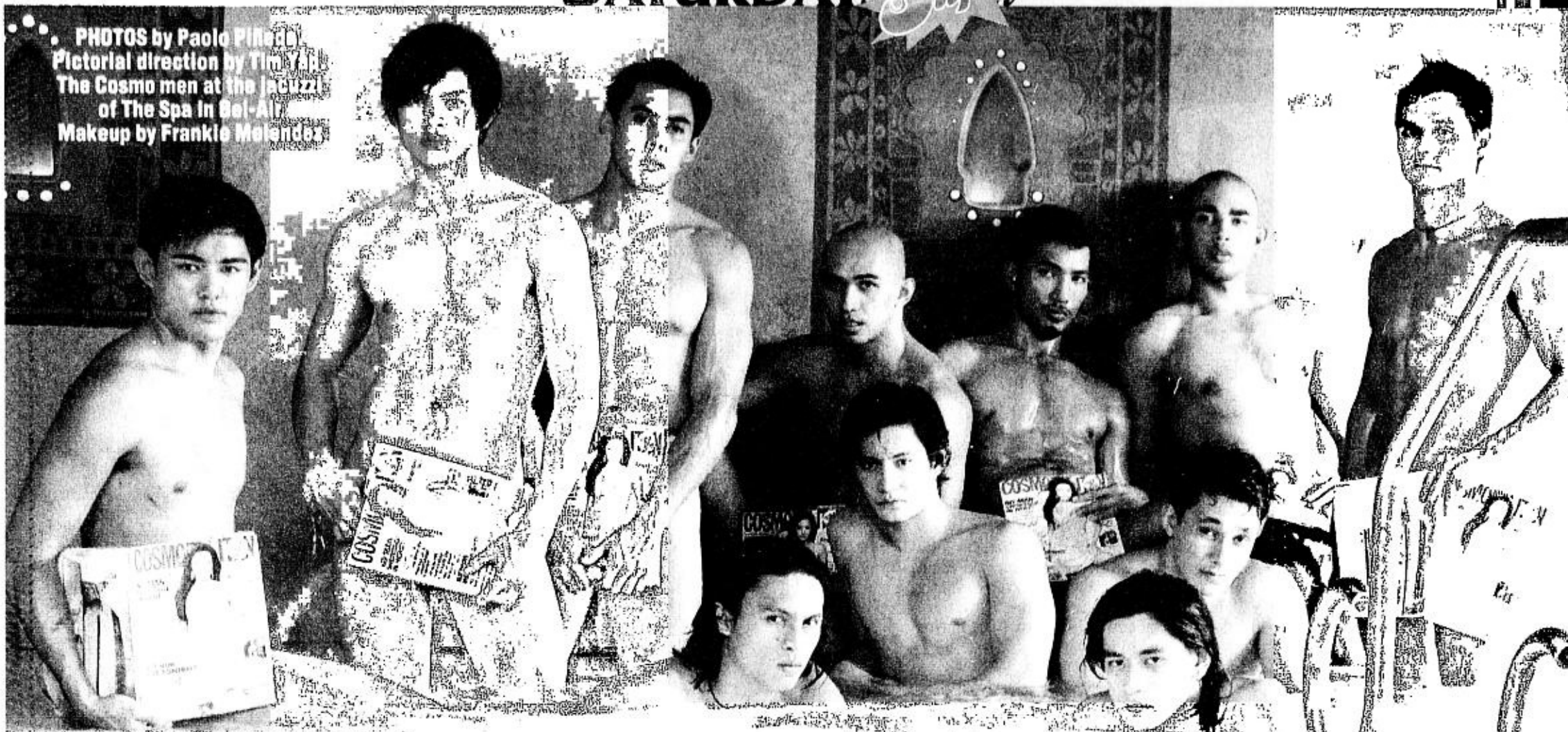


ELIZA Dushku



MICHELLE Rodriguez

PHOTOS by Paolo Pineda
Pictorial direction by Tim Yari
The Cosmo men at the Jacuzzi
of The Spa in Bel-Air
Makeup by Frankie Melendez



GJ Dy, Bim Cecilio, Jose da Silva, Jeff Misolas, AJ Dy, Ryan Mendoza, Don Panganiban, Clint Pijuan, Manny Distor, Ian Casem and Corey Wills

Play, girl!

Not all naked men are nice to look at, in the same way that not all naked men are nice to be with. This guide to male perfection helps separate the men from the mice.

By Ovvian Castrillo
Contributor

IT HAS always been easy for men to enjoy the image of scantily clad or altogether naked women. After all, they're everywhere—in the tabloids, broadsheets and the glossies, in the movies or on television.

So accustomed is society to seeing the bare female body, that the sight of one has come to elicit nothing more than curiosity and lackluster fan fare. That is, if anything is elicited at all. The Broadway song "Tits and Ass" is a testament to how the female body has become an overused aid in selling commodity and has, in fact, become a commodity in itself. But alas, women folk! It's time to even the playing field.

Tit for Tat

With the evolving, revolving world, roles are changing and tables are turning. Men are the new women, in the long awaited evolutionary justice. "Tits and ass" are being replaced by "brawn and balls" and images of naked men are flashed around for women to admire. Not all naked men are admirable, though, just as not all naked men are likeable. To help separate the men from the mice, rejoice that there is a guide to male perfection: this year's Cosmopolitan (Philippines) Centerfolds, showing the best among the best of Adam's lot.

Truly, the 2003 edition shows more muscle and skin than years

prior—hot hunks that will make even cold-blooded females reach boiling points, heal the worst case of frigidity, and cause wanton abandonment to rule. The pull-out edition features, among other things, 10 super centerfolds and 69 gorgeous bachelors to ogle.

Who's boss?

In producing Cosmo's 2003 Centerfolds edition, there were some role-changing too, as it was an enviable woman that was at the helm, instructing grown men to "take it off" exactly when, where and how she wanted.

Donna Cuna has been a major proponent in role reversal for years. She has styled the Cosmopolitan Centerfolds since 2001, and is also responsible for images of the hunks gracing the Cosmopolitan Calendars that women wish they get every year come the holidays.

As the recognized "main momma" on the set, Donna called all the shots. Asked how the sight of gorgeous bare-bodied men affected her, she was surprisingly nonchalant. No reflection on the attention-grabbing quality of the men; it's just that Donna has the coolness of a master, and maintains that it's all about keeping things under control. Expectedly so since, aside from styling talent, it was her professional nature that got her the highly sensitive job.

Pushed for a lowdown on the guys, Donna combined the authority of a boss with the generosity of a sister. The most popular among the centerfolds, she said, were Jon Hall, Rich Herrera and

Luis Manzano.

Pressured some more, she disclosed that the top two who could probably give women more than the usual kind of happiness would be Jon Hall and Ali Peek.

Of course she observed other things, like how a man, standing

naked alone with a woman might display a bit of shyness. But when a flock of men are gathered bare naked, what is most apparent is competitiveness. They try to outdo each other with a superior flex here, a winning smile there...

Encore

There's no "too much of a good thing" in this regard. So, for the fun of fearless females in the populace, there is the super centerfold encore: steamy, hot and designed to get even. Location for the shoot is the pleasure haven called The Spa,

which proved a perfect spot: a place to pamper the body and please the senses; the perfect spot to spoil and be spoiled.

Naked men in paradise? You bet. More is just so much better. It's the ladies' turn to have fun! So, go ahead, girl, play!



HOT! HOT! HOT! Cosmo class of 2003 at the sauna of The Spa. The "Cosmo Bachelor's Bash" is a by-invitation only event which happens next Thursday, Sept. 18 at the NBC Tent

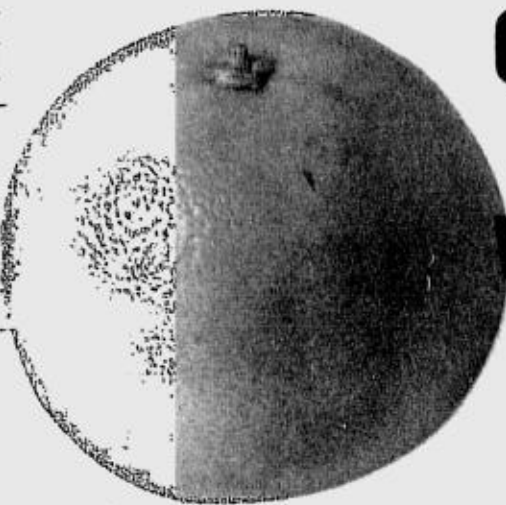
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Nocturnal scoop!



O (Orange, Olive or whatever) is open again!

By Tim Yap

The color of the night goes back to Orange. Nope, this is not some retro night that aims to bring back the old glory of a former club—it's the real thing, baby!

In short, "Orange will be open again!" said owner Nicky Jurado, one of the city's top billers in the DJ marquee. The Makati Avenue hotspot was quiet for sometime. Nocturnalites and partyphiles all missed the club's pumping music and great vibe, provided by the best and brightest spinning talents from here and the world.

"We've sold some of our stuff (meaning furniture, and not anything else, mind you)

but the interiors will be very bare, just like the old Orange," said Nicky J.

"We're still deciding on the name. Whatever people want—Orange, Olive, O—anything is fine." Intrigue and scandal filled the inside and outside of the club formerly known as 78 Orange, but the owners are optimistic about their rebirth. "The mayor said yes, and so we're back!"

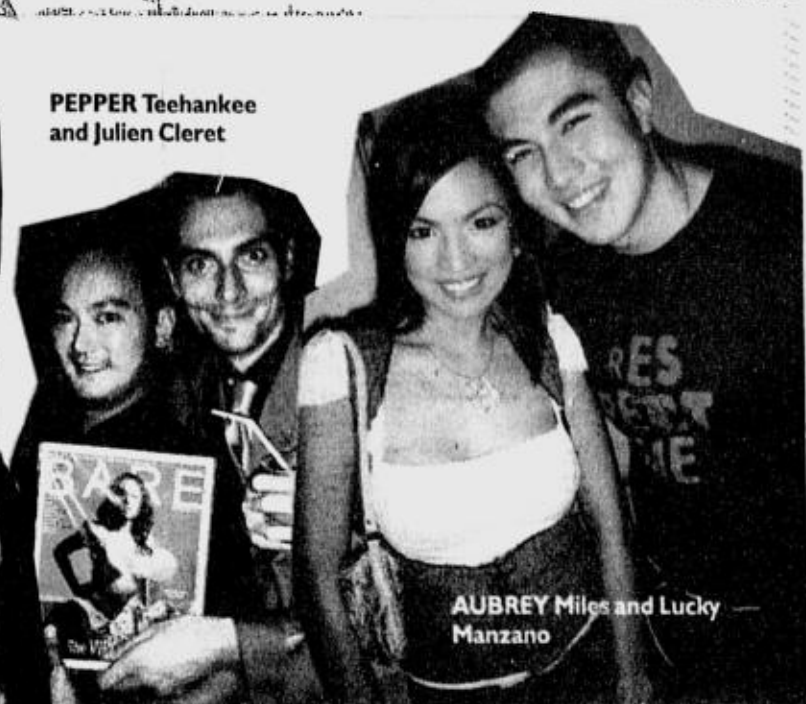
Will it have the same magic? Now that Makati is a smoke free zone, the club has no choice but to adhere to the "no smoking" order of the mayor. There will be a P200 door charge which includes one drink. "No more guest lists, this time," shared the scene shaker.

The club will resume operations starting Wednesday, and will be open four times a week.



CINDY Kurleto

PEPPER Teehankee and Julien Cleret



AUBREY Miles and Lucky Manzano

Naked glory

TAKE it off. Take it all off. Who can resist a live show? Monday night, Metro Manila's fashion celebrity set trooped to Absinth where the latest intrepid publishing posse, Bare (Beauty, Art, Recreation and Entertainment to its founders) uncovered its maiden ("virgin") issue.

Take a peek at Aubrey, let Cindy titillate, have a mouthful of Wendell, salivate over Kyla.

Beneath all that flesh are some of the city's creative geniuses and spinmasters at work, aiming to raise the bar of the "magazine as art gallery."

Kudos goes to ed in chief Philip Cu-Unjieng, a guy I'd love to hate but can't, coz he knows what he's doing. *Tim Yap*



ladies' wear



Sporty styles for mothers-to-be

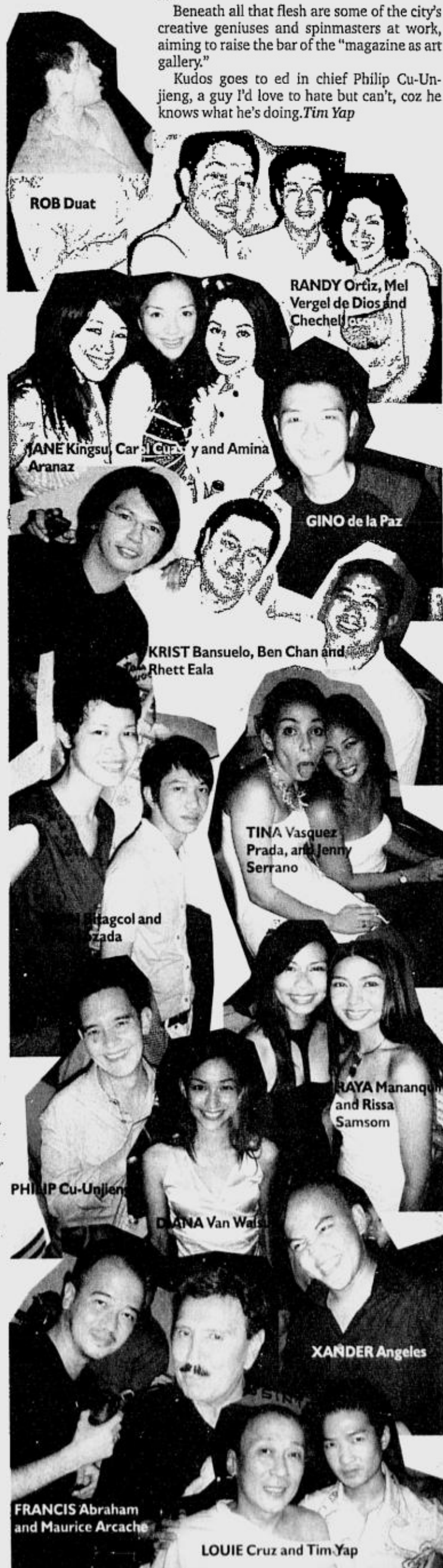


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By Paolo Trillo
Contributor

ATENEJO vs De La Salle: electrifying, stormy, insane, cool, hot, entertaining, addicting, loud, exciting, chronic, passionate, obsessive, typical, crazy, fun, stressful, thrilling, classic.

Just about everything has been said to describe the biggest college basketball rivalry in the country today, a rivalry that has spanned decades, one that has infected students, kids, adults, parents, grandparents, girlfriends, boyfriends, alumni, athletes and everyone that has seen blue or green.

Today, families will be estranged, forced to take sides. Text messages will circulate like there's no tomorrow, and prayers will be offered in great numbers. It's not another coup d'etat; it's the University Athletic Association of the Philippines' second-round collision between the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the De La Salle Green Archers at the Big Dome.

We're talking about a sports spectacle here. An army of green and a sea of blue converge in one venue to witness mad hoops. Fifty-year-old men and women will be taunting opposing teams from the sidelines. Base drums will be beaten all game long, even during the half-time break. Grade-schoolers and their parents will be shouting in unison: "One Big Fight!"

This is ... nuts. But for true-blue Ate-neans and green-blooded La Sallians, today is the day of reckoning.

DLSU is entering this game with a 7-5 record, and still gunning for the best possible placing in the final four. It has been a tough season for the rookie-laden squad, although the Archers have some impressive wins to show and an intoxicating full-court press to rely on. They are a very dangerous team when they have their game face on.

ADMU is at the top of the leader board sporting, with a 10-3 slate. But it still needs to win its last game to gain a twice-to-beat advantage entering the final four. The Blue Eagles have won nine of their last 10 games

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See Flyers for Details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No., 2406, Series of 2003

SHOPWISE



Real people for

IN CREATING the model units for The Columns, Ayala Avenue, Ayala Land company Community Innovations Inc. (CII) were very specific with their three designers: these spaces needed to be places in which real people would live.

To that end, CII gave Tina Periquet of Periquet Galicia Ltd, Sophia Ojeda of Sophisticated Interiors, and Gigi Eala, and her team from Environments Collaborative, profiles of fictitious residents who would be living in their model units. All fit the audience for which The Columns, Ayala Avenue is intended: young, upwardly mobile achievers who work in the Makati CBD. For these individuals, living at a unit in The Columns means having their first dream home, and enjoying all the provided benefits of the "Columns experience."

The one-bedroom unit, brightly and innovatively designed by Sophia Ojeda, is meant for a young married couple with a penchant for travel. "The clients for this unit are young urban achievers, successful in their fields, who saved enough to be able to live in Makati at The Columns," explains Ojeda. "They believe that it is a wise investment to buy from an Ayala Land company and that's one of their goals. They have enough to buy a one bedroom and furnish it as comfortably as possible to make it a 'home'."

At their home in The Columns, this young couple takes full advantage of outstanding location and amenities. Their apartment is sleekly modern, yet warmly inviting, and is adorned by Asian accents from their many travels. A convenient kitchen to the left of the front door meets the dining area and floating bar on the right, while the length of the unit to the balcony window comprises a living room facing an

ingenious wall unit with a built-in computer revolving, two-sided TV cabinet. Warm woods turn into rich reds and browns, a room, a private retreat for husband and wife.

Globetrotting for both business and pleasure like the proximity of The Columns to the offices in the Makati CBD, sometimes taking ways to work to avoid the hassle of urban traffic. At the same time, the accessibility of EDSA way allows them to get to the airport when they need or want. When they're at home, they enjoy the cheery view and modernist convenience of the unit, and the outstanding integrated amenities of The Columns, Ayala Avenue provides.

A weekend at home begins with coffee and a chicken pandesal at one of the ground-floor outdoor cafe's. The baristas know that they're regulars, their orders are ready as soon as they walk in the door. They sit at a table, in the open air, but still shaded by the Columns' mighty podium. After breakfast, they stroll through the grand lobby of their tower, take the elevator to their unit. The husband changes clothes, the wife into a swimsuit, and they take the elevator back down to the seventh floor of the Columns' Recreational Club. The husband slips into the lagoon pool for a few laps, while the wife heads to the gym for a good workout.

Meeting up again in the sunny patio, they talk across friends and neighbors and talk about places they've visited. The Columns is a place that blows away the concept of condos as cold and impersonal. CII, dedicated to encouraging community developments, designed the Recreational Club just that.

Back in their unit, the couple changes for a while, enjoying their Zen patio with a broad view of the Makati skyline. In the afternoon, they go off to Ayala Center for shopping and lunch, then home to host a few friends and neighbors for their signature dinner parties.

"Although it's 'only' a one-bedroom, this is their home," says Ojeda. "They will take full advantage of the amenities of a regular home in every area." That applies to every area of the unit, which is not just their unit, but also the place where the cafe, and everything else that's part of The Columns.

The same applies to the other resident



Flexible pricing plans include zero down at The Columns, Ayala Avenue

COMMUNITY Innovations Inc. (CII) announces zero-down payment pricing schemes for The Columns, Ayala Avenue starting this month to mark the continuing success of the residential condominium complex.

These new pricing options reflect the success of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, which has surpassed the half-way mark in sales in less than nine months. Tower One of the three-tower complex sold out in less than four months, and Tower Two is well on its way.

Buyers who wish to seize the opportunity to enter into the good life at

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, can avail themselves of the special Zero Downpayment schemes.

These zero-down payment schemes are designed to complement The Columns' already affordable standard payment schemes, which make The Columns' enviable mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units within reach of young urban achievers and their families.

Payment schemes can be customized to suit the needs and abilities of individual buyers, part of CII's commitment to creating and nurturing true communities in its developments.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the answer to the dreams of young

urban achievers seeking a quality condominium residence within the Makati CBD. Sporting three 30 story towers and a uniquely integrated show-stopping Recreational Club, The Columns, Ayala Avenue is one of the most talked-about properties in town.

Community Innovations, Inc. is dedicated to providing carefully planned and meticulously designed communities. An Ayala Land company, CII backs its bold mission with the experience and reputation of Ayala Land as the country's leading developer.

Designers of The Columns, Ayala Avenue have described the emerging community as "a vertical village." The Recreational Club of

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is more than just a place to live. It provides areas for the health and fitness, and in community.

The Recreational Club provides facilities for those in a country club or posh resort. A studio, a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom Columns, Ayala Avenue units gain the ship-a major plus.

For inquiries, please call 750-0471 or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph

Long live communities.



Real living at The Columns model units

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For this family and their precocious daughter, Periquet created a spacious, graceful set of apartments that glow with clean colors and lines. The unit's spacious kitchen is open to the living/dining area, which is decorated to function both as separate living and eating spaces and as one single space for entertaining. Periquet takes advantage of the windows in every room, even the utility room/maid's room, to bring natural light into the space. The daughter's room is cheerful and bright with space for little sleeper guests. The master bedroom and its private bathroom provides a private refuge for the parents while also giving outstanding corner views of the surrounding city and countryside.

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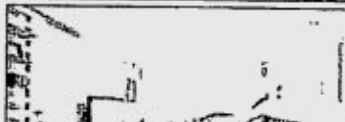
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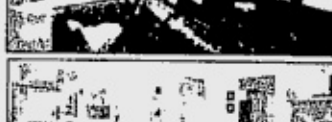
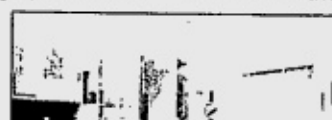
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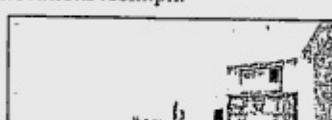
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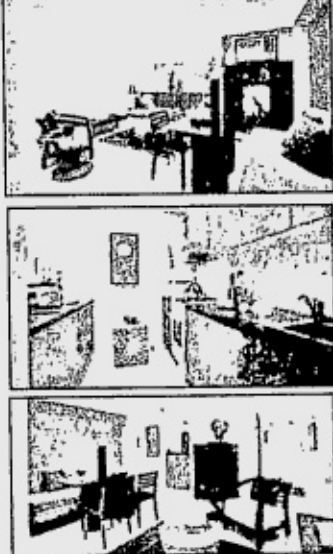
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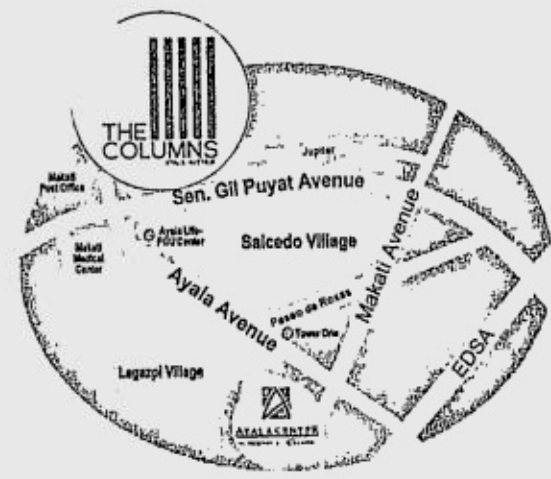
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The Adobo Conspiracy

RICH men, poor men, fat men, thin men, smart men, dumb men, they're all the same—Macho to the Max. How many "chicks" you can con into the sack establishes your worth in the male community.

As men age and acquire wealth and influence, this need to assert sexual prowess is expressed by keeping a mistress. Having another woman is as essential an ingredient to establishing that "you have arrived" as the latest BMW or mansion in Forbes Park.

FVR was rumored to have one. Erap not only admitted to the deed; he flaunted his women. And now Presidential spouse Mike Arroyo, is in the hot seat for the same misdemeanor. The showbiz world is not different when it comes to cheating men. Consider: Jomari-Aiko-Ara, John-Janice-Vanessa, Martin-Pops-Katrina-Cutie. The Love Boat has set sail with many showbiz love triangles (and quadrangles) aboard!

Are men naturally polygamous? And why does society look away as men in positions of

SWAK!

by Lex



Jomari-Aiko-Ara, John-Janice-Vanessa, Martin-Pops-Katrina-Cutie:
Why the love triangles/quadrangles rule!

power indulge their insatiable sex drives?

Chimp's a Wimp

I think the excuse that men are naturally polygamous is a farce. This myth is probably being propagated by a group of male scientists stuck in unhappy marriages. Look: If society looks up to the Dolphys and Ramon Revillas of the world, who have each bred an army of Mini-Me's, then wouldn't you also want to spread your seed?

Time Magazine even published a cover story stating that male chimpanzees are polygamous, so male humans must be naturally inclined to be that, too. So are we then accepting that we have not evolved from our Neanderthal past-lives?

In this country, money talks and bullshit walks. Forget that wives are oppressed and mistresses shamelessly flaunt their ill-gotten wealth. He who has the dough makes the rules.

Complex situation

Ultimately, I think the macho Pinoy stereotype is the result of collective inferiority complex. Men dominate women because they cannot handle the thought of being challenged by an intellectual equal. How many times have we heard, "*Ang gusto ko sa babae, simple lang, maalaga.*" English translation: "I don't need a wife, I need a maid."

It is said that the rule of thumb in choosing a mistress is for her to be half the man's age, plus seven. I don't know where this formula came from, but I do know that a young lass in his stable can make any overweight man with receding hairline feel like a brown Adonis. Never mind that she's in it for the money. He can always deceive himself into believing that she loves him for his mind.

A friend once said: "You know *pare*, it's like this. Women are like *adobo*. We all love it but when you have it everyday the *umay* factor kicks in. That's why I need variety."

I responded with another food analogy by saying: "Why do you need to have burgers elsewhere when you can have steak at home?"

(For comments e-mail: swak@info.com.ph)

Tru-orange in
a fresh, new light.



now sugar free



THIS isn't just a game. This is about pride.

Mad Hoops

From page 11

and are riding high on experience to defend their title. They are almost unstoppable when players off the bench compliment what is probably the best starting five in the league.

For DLSU and Coach Franz Pumaren, the battlecry is plain and simple. Good Archers are known for their aim. Team La Salle may not have the talent it once had, but this young, hard-working squad can still shoot for the stars. Their aim for this particular game is to beat the team that robbed them off a five-peat last year. This will not only avenge their veterans in the team but also instill pride in the newbies. Pride is most keenly fought for in a match like this. Instilling self-respect and honor in the rookies this early will definitely propel the Archers' arrows to greater heights in the future.

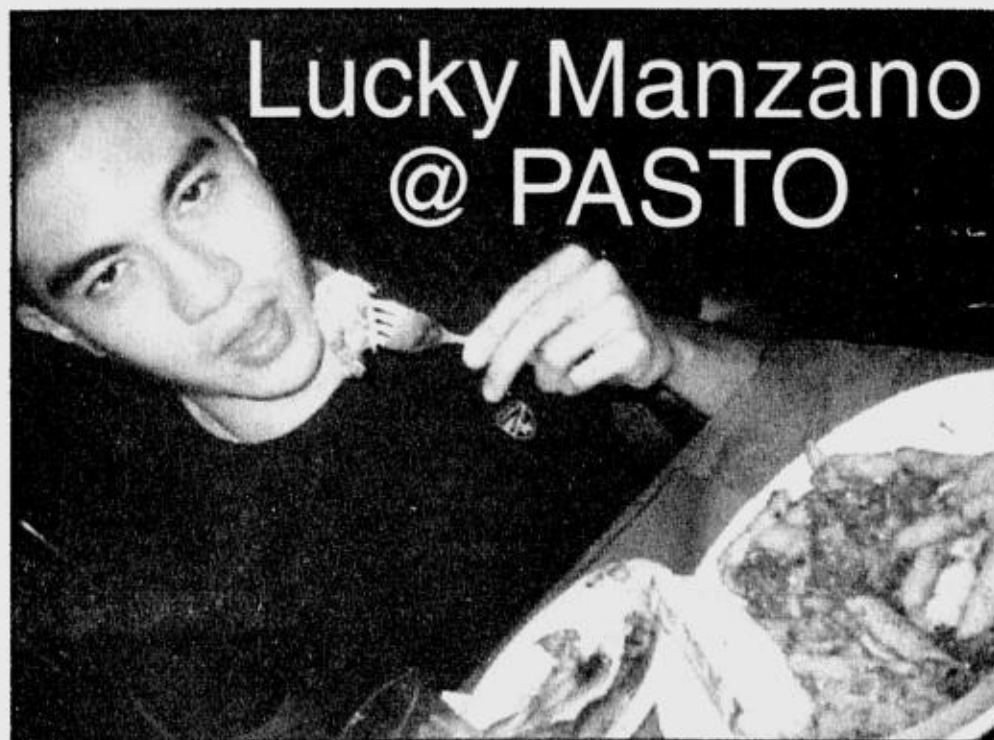
For Ateneo and Coach Joel Banal, the Eagles have landed. It was a steady flight to the top. After stealing the crown last year, they are looking to solidify their hold. The Blue Eagles have experience and firepower to back them up against a worthy foe.

You can throw team standings out the window, tear up the stat sheets, and forget about the lineups. There is no set gauge for an AD-MU-DLSU tiff.

This is about Pride. This is about Respect. This is Ateneo vs De La Salle.

Oh and by the way, tickets are sold out.

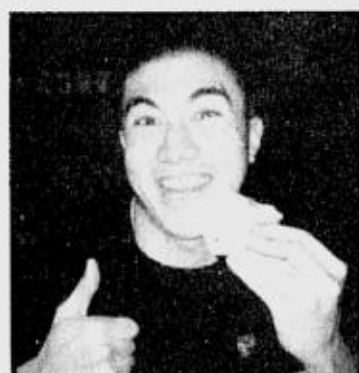
SATURDAY SPECIAL



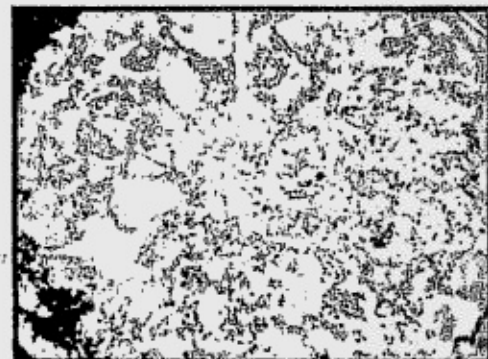
**Lucky Manzano
@ PASTO**

TINA TASTES

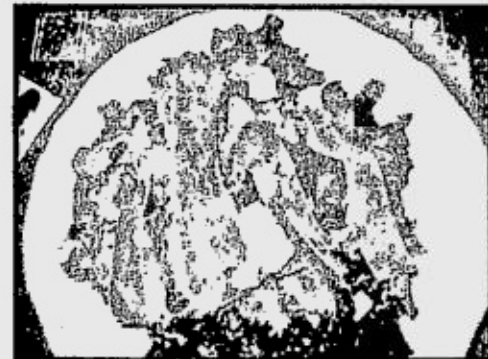
by Tina
Pamintuan



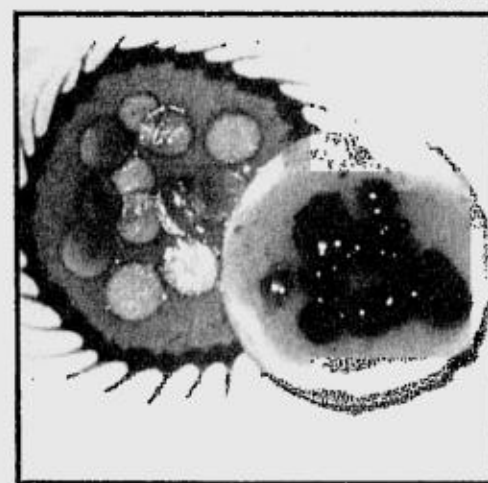
LUCKY enjoys the crostini crust



THE BEST of both worlds. Meat
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PASTO's refreshing salad



PASTO's blueberry cheesecake.

IT TOOK me a month to get this guy to go out with me and, truth to tell, I nearly gave up. No one, not even Lucky Manzano, was worth so much aggravation, I told myself. Who did he think he was?

But this guy knows how to work his charm, and that's an understatement. Coming back from a short trip abroad, I asked him one last time, via text. He replied—with a "welcome back" and a smiley!

So we agreed to meet at Pasto in Greenhills. I was late, and we texted back and forth: "I'm near na." "wru?" "near." "how come i don't believe?"

Finally meeting him, Lucky turned out to be sweet... no, super sweet!

Pasto is all about being understated—plainly because it's really good at what it does. This flagship branch has a great location, between Music Museum and Starbucks. At first glance, it seems to offer little more than any other pizza-pasta place (like we need another one). But it is just as soon re-deemed by the taste and quality of its remarkable food that caters to differing palates—from connoisseurs to Jollibee spaghetti lovers.

They have a savory tomato sauce that they use in the pastas and pizzas, and I must say they got it right to please the majority of people that count—the ones that like to eat, and eat well—without turning their pockets inside out.

After a little flirting that I'm pretty sure Lucky is not new to, I went straight to the point and asked:

Do you have a girlfriend?

No but I'm looking for one because it gets really lonely especially during the rainy season. You know, I need someone to hug.

What's the most scandalous thing you've ever done?

Well, once I was with my girlfriend, and we were sort of on

LUCKY/J3

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- Vitamin C and Rheumatism
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- Living to 100
Secrets of Long Life
- Mitral Valve Prolapse
The common but little known heart problem.
- Exercise
How it will save your life.
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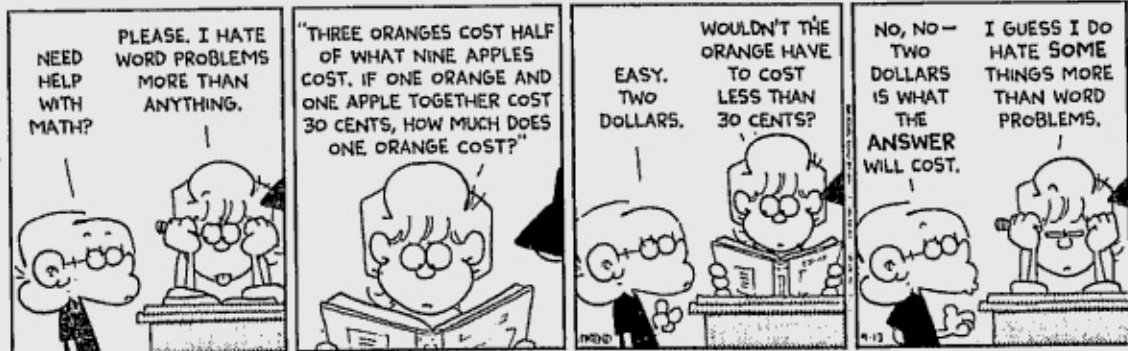
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DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intense and extremely persevering. You generally always get what you go after. In part, this is because you are devoted to a cause. You need an understanding partner. You are sincere, strong and opinionated. It is time for you to let go of many things and move on. You are wrapping up a nine-year cycle this year.

Birthdate of: Stella McCartney, fashion designer; Claudette Colbert, actress; Ben Savage, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Continue your efforts to get better organized both at work and at home. However, this is a poor day to buy the support material you need to do the job. Wait until tomorrow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make sure you do not make important purchases for your home today. This is not a good day to shop. However, it's an excellent day to entertain at home.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Since you have a strong focus on money now, be aware that this is a very poor day to shop or buy things. Naturally, you can shop for food, but draw the line there.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a marvellously creative day! Do anything that makes you feel happy and able to express yourself. Enjoy the moment; don't let others judge you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a poor day for important decisions or shopping. Just buy food. Anything else you purchase will have to be returned later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Enjoy yourself with others, and indulge in creative activities if you can. Feel free to "waste" today chatting with people over coffee or drinks. It's that kind of day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day to meditate, do yoga or enjoy the peace and quiet of nature. Don't make plans for anything important. Kick back and relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fabulous day to chat with friends and groups. Enjoy social interaction with others. Don't make important decisions or commitments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's all right to fill your databank with information, especially related to your career. However, do not make important decisions related to this today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day for discussions about practically any topic. However, do not come to important decisions. Do not make commitments or promises.

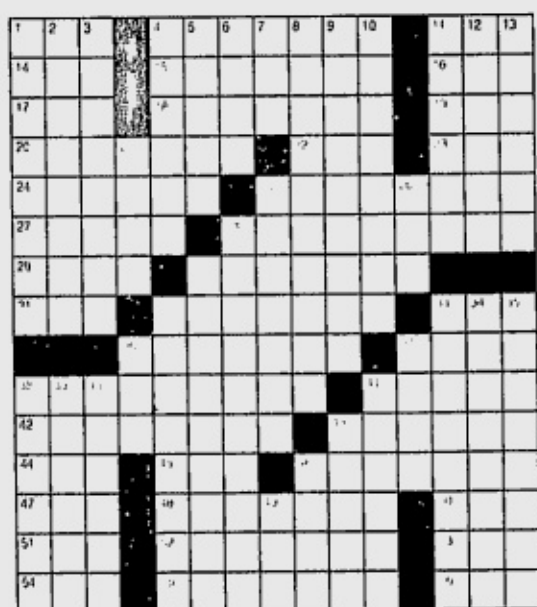
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Creative research can produce a lot today. This is also a wonderful day to flirt. Just go with the flow, and network as much as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with friends and partners can be unusually revealing today. Someone could bare his or her soul to you. This is because you are a sympathetic listener.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Tack on
- 4 Consoler
- 11 Break bread
- 14 Joey of the twist
- 15 For the public good
- 16 Goddess of criminal folly
- 17 Capp and Gore
- 18 City northeast of Florence
- 19 Jewel
- 20 Lee or Redman
- 22 Distress letters
- 23 Kiddie seat?
- 24 Rock debris at cliff bases
- 25 Most abstruse
- 27 Fence parts
- 28 Makes seem less serious
- 29 List component
- 30 Leave-taking
- 31 "...and so to"
- 32 Cowboy's job
- 33 School org
- 36 Sitting on eggs
- 37 Sound defeat
- 38 Finding new actors
- 41 Romance
- 42 Tree of the myrtle family
- 43 Transform
- 44 Shemp's tormentor
- 45 Wallach of "Lord Jim"
- 46 Make happy
- 47 Uncouth clod
- 48 Dressing down
- 50 Moreover
- 51 Irish golfer Smyth
- 52 Disengage
- 53 Turn to the right
- 54 "Just the Way You..."
- 55 Soaked
- 56 Brink of Christmas
- DOWN**
- 1 Tracy/Hepburn comedy
- 2 Fragile



By Annabel Michaels



- 3 Discovered by careful scrutiny
- 4 Carefree, lively outings
- 5 In-person academic examinations
- 6 Devotion
- 7 An honest man?
- 8 Seeking advice from
- 9 Bestowing a title upon
- 10 Cooking in dry heat
- 11 Occupant of an aerio
- 12 Relaxed
- 13 Holds out a carrot to
- 21 Steering mechanism
- 25 Pilchard
- 26 Fall behind
- 28 Verb that can be an adjective
- 30 Deadly
- 32 Venus as the evening star
- 33 Rate based on weight
- 34 "Fathers and Sons" writer
- 35 Audience member
- 36 Certain mil. installation
- 37 Byway
- 38 Motel chain
- 39 Impetuous groom
- 40 John of "Fawcett Towers"
- 41 Irritated
- 43 Wrap up
- 46 Sticky, wet stuff
- 49 Caviar

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



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BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



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Imagine, me and the Beatles?

They were geniuses in their simplicity. This is why everybody loves them. This is why they're the greatest for me

EVERYONE, at one point or another, has asked someone: "What was the first CD (or album, or tape, depending on the "era") you ever bought?" This is usually a gauge of "coolness" and a reflection of the kind of music that the person asked holds in esteem.

If I were asked that, I would have to say my first CDs (because I bought three) were Aerosmith's "Pump," Simon and Garfunkel's "Greatest Hits," and John Lennon's "Imagine." All of these CDs inevitably led me to discover rock at its rawest. At the time I had just discovered Pearl Jam, Nirvana and Alice In Chains.

My initial purchases further led me to stuff by such other artists as Jimi Hendrix, The Mamas and the Papas, and Led Zeppelin. Of all these, "Imagine" is what influenced me the most and got me into exploring the Beatles.

Aimee Marcos

Mind-altering

As a band they tried out new "sounds" such as the sitar, brought in by George Harrison along with Eastern philosophy and mind-altering hallucinogens. There is a story about the guys meeting the father of Norah Jones, Ravi Shankar who was/is a "great one" in his own right, and who taught Harrison to play the sitar. Once, welcoming Shankar in London's Heathrow airport, the Beatles dressed up in traditional Indian garb, and the guest turned up in a double-breasted English suit!

To a more conscientious music lover, the true genius of the Beatles is in their songs. There is much talk among the literati about how valuable meter and style is in writing. Take Shakespeare's iambic pentameter in his sonnets, for example (thanks, Thor). The Beatles, it must be said, wrote for the sake of writing. They've said they didn't go out to change the world; they just wanted to make music and write songs. But they created timeless classics, sometimes within five minutes.

Chill-out piece

I brought up Shakespeare because, unintentionally, Paul McCartney wrote one of my greatest favorites, "Eleanor Rigby," in iambic pentameter. The thing is, according to various vignettes about him writing this song, he was merely chilling out at his local church looking at gravestones for inspiration. Eleanor Rigby and Father McKenzie were names on tombstones, and a whole song with string backing was borne.

Another significant feature of Beatles music is the play of chords they employed. Experts say that in one of their earlier songs, "Love Me Do," they used a chord pattern that

name a few. This means before there was "We Are The World" and "Live Aid," there were the Beatles (with a little help from their friends) singing for peace and love and the "Flower Power" movement.



THE BEATLES, they rule!

could easily have been for three different songs.

They continue to influence even today's artists. To illustrate: Fiona Apple's rendition of Lennon's "Across the Universe"; the looped drumbeat in the Chemical Brothers' "Setting Sun" was the same drum loop by Ringo Starr in "Tomorrow Never Knows." The thing is, Ringo had no drum machine.

And before rap singers did, the Beatles used riffs from really old songs, like the beginning of the French national anthem in "All You Need Is Love."

More important, the Beatles were one of the first mainstream artists who sang about social and political issues, like war and poverty. And certainly they were the first band to officially break up on account of "artistic differences."

Every moment

I sincerely believe there is a Beatles song for

every significant moment in life. When I'm in a contemplative mood, there's "In My Life" or "Across the Universe." When I'm a bit blue, there's "Here Comes the Sun," "Let it Be" and "Hey Jude." When I become conscious about what's going on in the world, there's "Revolution," "Give Peace a Chance" and "All you Need is Love." When I feel like dancing, there's "I Saw Her Standing There" or "Tomorrow Never Knows." When I'm in an argument with someone, there's "We Can Work It Out." When I'm lonely, there's "For No One." If I had a tough day, there's "A Day In the Life" and "Hard Day's Night." And when I just want to listen to something while writing, there's "Paperback Writer."

Such is the genius of the Beatles; that's why people love them to this day. They were geniuses in their simplicity, and simultaneously diverse and complex, especially in the "hidden meanings." Their songs capture feelings and connect to people. This is why they are the greatest for me.



Greatest ever

The Beatles, in my opinion, is the greatest rock band ever. I'm sure people would say, "What?" because the band is usually associated with a wiser generation. But the Beatles were, and are, cool. They accelerated the whole movement of "change" through innovation in their music and style. They started out as kids from Liverpool, England trying to get night gigs in the Cavern, a now infamous club that has Beatles' fanatics like me making pilgrimages. That was where Ringo became part of the band. That was when they changed their name from Quarry Men, lost a member, and became the "Fab Four."

Not many people know that the reason my personal favorite Beatle, John (and Paul as well), picked up a guitar in the first place was the "King" himself, Elvis Aaron Presley. Apparently, he had heard "Heartbreak Hotel" and thought he wanted to be that cool. There is even a legendary (part of rock n' roll myth almost) jam session between the Beatles and Elvis, when they rocked for about two hours. Unfortunately, this was never recorded. Can you imagine that? Just writing about it gives me chills.

Even more people don't know (and I hope I do justice to Thor, my mentor, when I write these next lines) is that the Beatles started a host of other little things that may seem irrelevant perhaps because they are almost unnoticeable today:

The Beatles were one of the first bands to go on satellite TV. The song "All you Need Is Love" was "written" for the event by John. Backup was done with the help of members of the Who, the Rolling Stones and Cream, to

Lucky . . .

From page J1

the same bed with her brother... uhhm...let's just say we were...

... at which point the food started arriving all at once. Nonetheless, he managed to tell me so much about himself, I wondered what to do with the information. I was sworn to secrecy, but here's something we can reveal: Lucky's love for bacon and sweets.

We had the arrabiata smothered with tomato chunks and bite-sized and spiced bacon strips. We also had the meat-lover's pizza, generous portions of ham, Italian herb sausage, pep-

peroni and smoked bacon.

The pizza is a story all its own. It's not easy to get pizza right. Pasto is one of those places who got the formula right for the crust. There's must be an added touch of love to the way they make their dough because even if you don't fancy bread, its hard to resist theirs. The crostini can be ordered with various dips and spreads. I must say it's better than the ones usually offered as complimentary starters in fine-dining Italian restaurants. You can have it with creamy spinach, eggplant relish or pesto pomodoro.

The menu has the standard favorites, including some specials. The pizza is crisp and does much more than satisfy the stomach's need for solid matter. I made a mental note to be back for the vongole pesto pizza. Maybe with Lucky, maybe not.

A soft kiss hello, pulling out my chair like a true gentleman, cutting up and serving me food, allowing me to eat first, even cleaning up my crumbs—these are little things that matter so much to us girls. Lucky did all these for me. He is a hopeless romantic. I should be so lucky.

What: Pasto

Where: Greenhills Theatre Mall and The Fort

When: everyday 10 a.m. to midnight

How much: P200 per head

Contact: 722-5006, Greenhills; 884-1592, The Fort

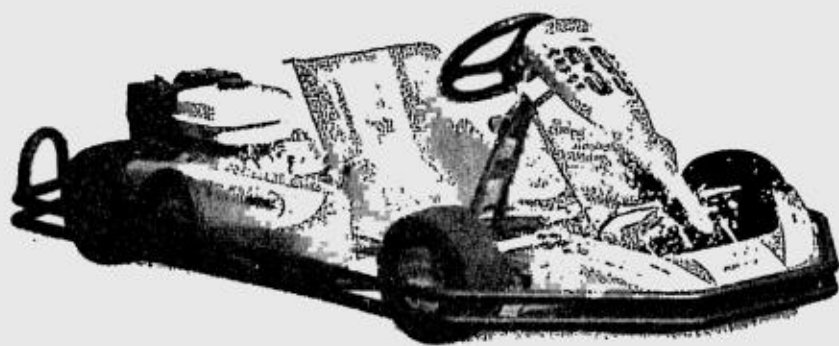
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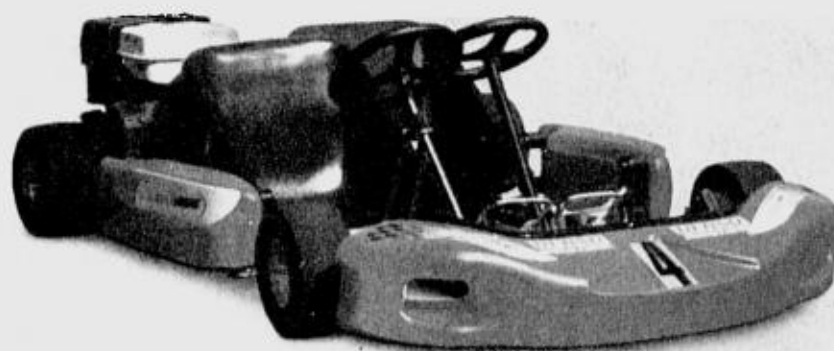
"I NEED someone to hug."



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Super Guide

Sept. 13, Saturday

- BRAVO Ristorante, Adriatico cor Nakpil, Malate: "Notti Sensual al Bravo" with Wendell Garcia (deep, funky and sexy house)
- ABSINTH: Remedy with Roman Mojica (progressive house & trance) & Adrian Cuenca (electro house & disco punk)
- ACAUARIO: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)
- DREAMBAR: Baleria with Manolet Dario & Benjo Marquez (San Francisco house)
- TIANANMEN BAR AND RESTO: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)

Sept. 15, Monday

- Rasta Night: reggae fever at Flute with Indio I Band
- Sound (acid jazz and bossanova) at Dish, with DJ Wendell Garcia (jazzy and funky house)

Sept. 16, Tuesday

- Acoustic with Albert de Pano at Drum 'n' Bass Bar
- Spirit of '67 at Dish
- Good Life feat. DJ Steve Mills at Temple

Sept. 17, Wednesday

- Smooth at Absinth RnB/HipHop by DJ Steve Mills
- IL Ponticello: Community with Roman Mojica (progressive house, trance) & guest DJs
- Temple: Manolet Dario (progressive house) & Raji Mata (deep, progressive house)
- Ice Vodka Bar: Groove Sanctuary with Adrian Cuenca

- (deep house & electro lounge)
- Passage Unplugged Bar Tour at Dish
- Color It Red at Sanctum Unmasct

Sept. 18, Thursday

- Super exposed at Bed, Ma. Orosa St., Malate
- Posh R & B at Azzurro at Somerset Hotel
- Electrobasil at V Bar
- Rage Band at Dish
- Michael Bublé at PICC
- The 6th Cine Europa Film Festival at SM Megamall (Opening)
- Cosmo Bachelor's Bash at NBC Tent

Sept. 19, Friday

- Super! The Launch—Big Fish presents Danny Howells at Cats New World Renaissance Hotel
- "Ang Negosyante ng Venesya" at CCP
- IL PONTICELLO: L8R after-hours (Saturday Morning 3 a.m.) with Kevin Ruiz (progressive, New York tribal house)
- RESTAURANT 12: 12 after 12 with Chip de la Calzada (lounge, deep house) guest list in effect
- BED, Malate: The Blackout Party with Roman Mojica (Progressive house, Trance)
- ABSINTH: The Taste of Orange
- DREAMBAR: Decadance with Boyet Almazan (80's and 90's)
- WASABI: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (r&b)

For your gigs to be published email cuenca_adrian@hotmail.com by Wednesday afternoon.

A fantastic Friday afoot

IT'S going to be an exciting Friday.

It's been a while since local clubbers last felt a great but intimate vibe. The recent parties of Bigfish at the NBC Tent have all been wonderful, but being massive events with thousands of people in attendance, the gatherings did tend to lose intimacy.

Being an avid clubber, this writer misses the old days of ABG's, Kemistry and sevenneighborange—small venues that made you feel you knew everybody personally and that you were all part of one big happy family.

Expect that same old feeling happening this weekend. This Friday, the 19th, Bigfish will throw a party at a smaller venue than their usual NBC Tent, the old Cats Disco of New World Hotel. This is the world tour of Danny Howells' 24:7 Global Underground CD.

For the uninitiated, Global Underground is a very prestigious name in the world of modern electronic dance music. Its mix compilations are of the highest standards and the DJs fea-

tured on the GU CDs are the best in the world—Danny Tenaglia, Sasha, John Digweed, Paul Oakenfold, James Lavelle and Deep Dish, among others.

Danny Howells is no ordinary DJ. Recently, our city has hosted so many foreign DJs arriving on our shores, we are beginning to wonder if it isn't unfair to our local DJs, who are just as talented. Some of these imports have no credentials beyond the hype dished out by the promoters.

Thank God Bigfish is bringing in Danny Howells (which is also the launch of Super!). He is a former resident at John Digweed's Bedrock and the revered Twilo in New York. He has released several mix compilations with Renaissance, Global Underground, and his own "Nocturnal Frequencies"; he was voted number 12 in last year's top 100 best DJs by the voters of DJ Magazine. Currently, he is a resident at Danny Tenaglia's Arc Club.

This will be Howells' third visit to Manila. During his first in 2000, only a few hundred trekked to Intra-

mauros for the gig. Even though the event was not well attended, his set was groundbreaking as he introduced local clubbers—used to commercial trance until then—to the artistry and energy of progressive house.

The following year, Howells came to Manila via veteran club promoters NBK. It was one of the best parties of that year. Definitely, this Friday's gig should not be missed.

It doesn't stop at New World. At IL Ponticello starting at 3 a.m. Saturday, L8R debuts.

L8R is the proper after-hours party with Kevin Ruiz, originator of the after-hours sound in Manila. All the old clubbers and partyphiles still remember his energy-filled sets at the old sevenneighborange, where he would relentlessly play for hours and hours and the crowd danced until the morning (sometimes until afternoon).

See you all on Friday! Adrian Cuenca



Exposing the golden gut

Like all great spectator sports, scoping out what's in the pipeline has become big business

MY STEREO speakers are currently rocking this band called Rooney, the latest in a stampede of floppy-haired beach-rock bands from California. Like Phantom Planet before them, Rooney and other beyond-catchy bands like Maroon 5, The Like, and Audiovent will all become famous. How do I know? I just do. My instincts have rarely been off. I bet my retro hi-top Avias on it.

Exploring my own way of saying "f-k off" to mass marketers and other purveyors of cloned coolness, I started my career as a human fortune cookie during my freshman year in high school. Buying habits convey a certain profile and mine, I guess, revealed something utterly bizarre. Voted best-dressed in my class, I'd be all tricked out in Unionbay one day and Junior Gaultier the next. My tween-period mix tapes were also buzz-worthy, to say the least. Depending on my mood, I'd throw in a Soup Dragons remix with Cole Porter, or LL Cool J with The Sugarcubes.

Music geekdom aside, I think my Sundance moment came when I wrote a term paper called "The Cult of the Next." Preceding the current Time Magazine article "The Quest for Cool" by a decade, my A+ composition touched on the discernment of what's next, the thrill of the hunt, and bobbing for the in thing. The model-friendly allusions and countless band references raised brows because my insights were not mere kiddie versions of adult fare. That combination of innocence and worldliness turned my whole high school existence into a dark designer comedy. A few years and a pair of Gsus jeans later, my trend-trawling guts have stayed as golden as ever.

Inside out

Like all great spectator sports, scoping out what's in the pipeline has become big business. At the height of the Britney Spears epidemic, I began work as freelance section editor for Preview Magazine. More than a one-two punch of looks and linguistic skills, I think I was signed up based on a journal I had shown then-publisher Kitty Go. This journal had the broken-down luxury of a trusty PDA, except it was hand-made and ran on pure inspiration. In it, I scribbled my own version of The Rough Guide, haphazardly stuck photos of people I found awesome, and listed down all the stuff I thought rocked. The youthful and slightly potty-mouthed vibe of my scrapbook was apparently what they wanted for Preview Prefers, a six-page guide on modern urban living. Taking my alpha consumerism to new heights, I became the cubicle-dwelling Ethan Hunt of trendspotting.

Except for the fact that I got paid to use my intuition as a corporate Magic 8-Ball™, nothing really changed much. I was still a complete Nazi when it came to the contents of my journal, which by then dressed itself up as a magazine section. I stuck to my only plan of attack: Think from the inside out. "It doesn't matter if people don't understand it now," my abs thought. "They'll get it in the future." True enough, they did. I featured Camper Pelotas, minimalist Italian sofas, and Basement Jaxx a year, or three, before they hit the mainstream.

Rare peek

When it comes to personal taste, a quote from a talented dude named Frank Lloyd Wright is my special formula. "If you like it, it will go together," he once said. Tying loose ends into a neat bundle is the story of my life. During the wenge furniture outbreak, I completed my ninth and final issue of Preview so that I could start a deadline-free life in South America. I was sad to leave, but I happily projectile-vomited at the prospect of finding style inspiration in the Spanish-speaking world. One of my finds was the commercial but dazzling Jamie Oliver. He was just bubbling under in 2000, but I managed to come across his show away from my usual turf. There was just something so spot-on with his scruffy pop culture persona. Apart from that, he dressed like I did! More treasures: Bebel Gilberto, "Amores Perros," and Shakira. I knew they would become "bold-faced names someday. That's a bionic track record, don't you think?

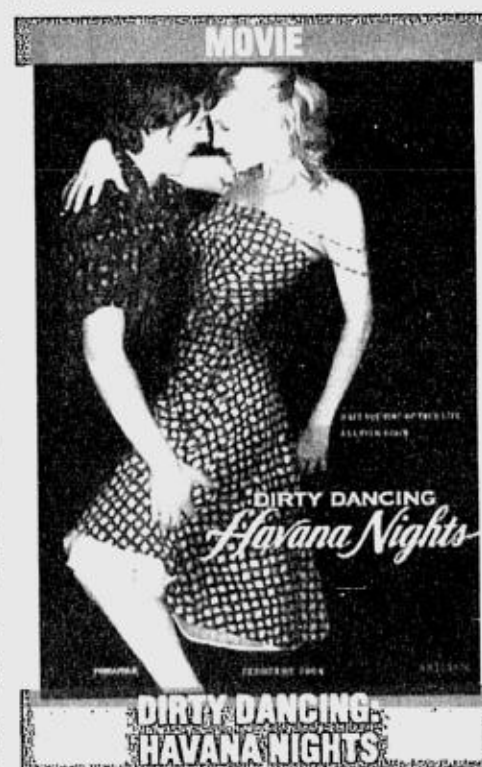
Scientific tests have determined that humans are suckers for anything with a mystique based on astute PR. More than that, we all flip for things that are in scarce supply. Sadly, with information hurtling at viral speeds, a golden gut isn't as rare as it used to be. Everyone's mojo seems to be on the inside track, so getting the skinny on what's next has become dead easy. Notice, too, that coolness is no longer a secret handshake. If being hip is now unhip, then what will the future hold? Should we forget about Colette and run to Shoemart? Are there trends to be found among the seven-hundred-foot high towers of toilet paper at Costco? We'll just have to see.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

The Super! future

MORE than an all-purpose accolade, the word "cool" can make us fold like a house of cards because it can unlock the mysteries of tomorrow. After standing by the conveyor belt of novelty and detecting the fake power chords of progress, I see that my tea leaves have these to share:



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SATURDAY *Super*Sunshine
Man

KISSING A
FOOL. A pensive
Michael Bublé

By Ria Romero and Tim Yap
Photos by Steve Tirona

SINGER, swinger, showman, a dreamboat to the ladies, this young Canadian crooner can knock the socks off unsuspecting listeners and interviewers. It's ten a.m. and Michael Bublé asks for a cigarette from the cameraman and takes a swig of his not-so-saintly single malt. He can do a mean copy of Eminem in rap posse mode, and a coterie of other singers and songs.

With tousled blondish brown hair, a ready mischievous smile and firm handshake, the man's got character and lots of charm and oh, he oozes Matt Dillon-ish appeal! It's hard not to like him. Turn on that megawatt-witty brain of his and you're putty in his hands.

Bublé has often been called the new Frank Sinatra, what with a voice that's rich, soothing and just so cool it is no wonder he's believed to be the next big thing. He tells the story of his record's sales performance: "Can you believe on my first week out, I sold 41 CDs? A day after that week I went on the show of Katie Couric, it was Valentine's and I asked her to dance and I sang a song ... wow the next day I sold 15,000 CDs. I mean, can you believe that kind of mileage?"

His style is definitely all his own and with the experience that spans 10 years, is almost a guarantee that there is more to come for this soon-to-be-crowned king of classic cool.

This is our Super! scoop (with an exclusive photo shoot) on Michael Bublé—and by the way, we were the first to interview this cutie.

How do you begin your day?

I begin my day by mostly waking up and doing an interview and then doing 27 more. But I'm in a different country and through the whole day I'll do press. Or I might have a show and then sleep. No parties. Last night was the first time for me to be out and I didn't last very long. I mean I don't want to wake up and give you stupid answers for this interview.

Before Manila, where did you come from?

I came from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Before that I had come from Australia and New Zealand; before that America, Germany, Italy, France, London, Sweden.

You've been busy!

Yup, I have.

So can you tell us your musical history?

When I was a kid—five or six—around Christmas my family always played Bing Crosby's "Dreaming of a White Christmas." It wasn't so much the songs but the style of music. It was my first introduction to that form and I've always had an affinity for it. But in my early teens I was listening to whatever was out there like rock, the Beastie Boys, Guns and Roses—what kids listened to. But I soon came back to the music, hungering for something with melody and words that meant something to me ... and this music was that for me. My grandfather and I are very close and he used to put me on guilt trips and he'd say "Oh sunshine ('cause he calls me Sunshine), can you just learn the Bobby Darin greatest hits and learn the song 'Clementine.' I mean I would sit at the table with a glass of wine and sing the songs for him. He even bought me a karaoke machine."

I studied all the vocalists. I'm not a jazz guy; I'm a pop singer in the traditional sense.

SUNSHINE/K2



SWAY with Michael Bublé

this **WEEK**
@ **SM SUPERMALLS**

Grandparents' day
MALL HAPPENINGS

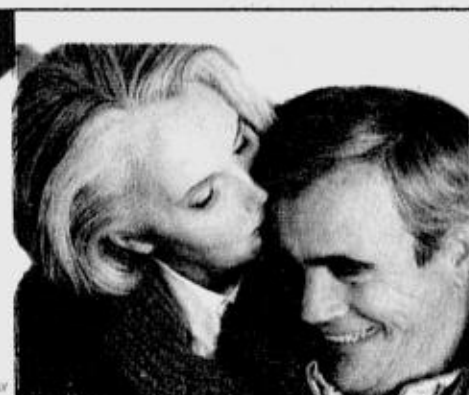
lolo&lola health check fair
Keep Lolo & Lola in tip-top shape. Treat them to a day of
FREE HEALTH SERVICES IDEAL VISION DERMOLINE GNC HEALTHWAY

grandparents' day movie traxx
Lolo & Lola can reminisce about the good ol' days while watching movies from a wide screen

PLDT tawag para kay *lolo&lola*
Away from your grandparents? Call them via
PLDT's LIBRENG TAWAG PARA KAY LOLO & LOLA on their special day

lolo&lola tai-chi & qui-cong demo
Watch a 30-minute demo where lolo & lola can learn the fundamentals and benefits of TAI-CHI & QUI-CONG

Amation cooking demo
Learn easy-to-prepare recipes for lolo & lola



*SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

September 12 (friday)	SM City Sta. Mesa SM City Bacoor SM City Manila SM City Pampanga
September 13 (saturday)	SM City North Edsa SM Southmall Las Pinas
September 14 (sunday)	SM Megamall Ortigas SM City Fairview SM Supercenter Sucat SM City Bicutan

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Sunshine Man

Michael Bublé is often called the new Frank Sinatra, what with a voice that's rich, soothing, and so cool, it is no wonder he's also believed to be the next big thing.



COME fly with me

From page K1

If you look at my album it's contemporary songs as opposed to all standards. There's "Come Fly with Me," and there's also "Kissing a Fool." I mean I know who I am and what my personal style is, and it doesn't matter to me whether a song was written in 1930 by George Gershwin or by George Michael in 1991. If it has a beautiful melody, nice lyrics and a great beat, then that's a classic."

If there was something in your CD that you could have changed what would it be?

I took the arrangements for Billy May and Don Costa that were done for Frank Sinatra, for the songs "Come Fly With Me" and "For Once In My Life." I wish I didn't do that. I mean by taking those arrangements that Sinatra had done, I put myself on a cross. But this was battle I had lost to David Foster. Now we both agree that was ... I mean we didn't mean to steal the song, it was meant to be a tribute to the man. But ... we make mistakes

and we try learn from them.

What's it like working for these guys, Paul Anka and David Foster?

Anka's great. He's like my buddy. I call him Uncle Paul. Working with Foster ... I mean he's got 16 Grammys, he wrote a lot of the Chicago stuff from "I Am A Man Who Will Fight For Your Honor" ... it's truly working with a modern-day Beethoven. When he sits down at the piano, you're very aware that this is a brilliant man. He's very sure of himself and he always says that compromise breeds mediocrity. If he believes strongly in something then that's it and I'm the same way. So we butt heads sometimes but mostly it made for better work. Him and Paul Anka I can count as two of my best friends.

What did you splurge on with your first big paycheck?

It's more for my mom and dad. I never wanted to buy a Porsche or a BMW. I drive a Nissan Maxima, a nice enough car, it gets me there. I didn't buy anything for myself. My mum likes to play the slot machines, so I sent her down to Las Vegas.

How old are you?

Twenty-something (he says this with a lazy grin) ... okay I turned 26 yesterday (Sept. 9).

Tell me about your young audience—all those young girls screaming.

It's funny in America, Canada and even Australia now ... we never expected this.

We're not rock stars, we play kind of jazzy standards. But our show rocks as much as AC-DC would rock. You have to see the show to understand. It's a

crazy show! In America (we have) young people, girls like 13 years old and 25 ...

What's the greatest lesson you've learned in life so far?

That my family is my reason for being. My father and my grandfather are two of the most successful people I know because they're loved by their family and they love their family. Whether I fail or I succeed they will always love me. This is all just a wonderful bonus. (Michael Bublé's concert is on Sept. 18 at the PICC.)

WITH Warner Music's Anne Poblador after the photo shoot at the rooftop of the Makati Shangri-La



SUPER PALS!
Ria Romero and Tim Yap with Bublé at the presidential suite of Makati Shangri-La



REASON for being



"Who do you think you are, Tessa Prieto-Valdes?"

WHO else can get away with joining a badminton tournament without knowing the rules, mixing up names of personalities in the countless events that she attends, joining a triathlon without any training (much more, without a bicycle), and dressing up as a tree in a "Save the Trees" rally?

We are not referring to a publicity-craving bold star (even if she claims to have the body of one), nor are we inside an asylum of delusional characters. I am talking about Tessa Prieto-Valdes—the Sea Princess herself—style chameleon, life crusader and icon.

So how do you describe an icon? Let me borrow the script during the recent surprise party (organized by Anton Barretto) for Tessa, who just turned 40 (yes, she is now officially a Manila matron):

"When looking for an icon to describe an icon, the only one that came close was the former material girl—trend-setting, chart-busting, generation gap-crossing Queen of Pop Madonna."

Thus a programme started with Tessa's life told in song (thank God for lipsynch) and dance—from days as a party girl to high school, to meeting the wrong guy but producing her first love, Bryan, to setting up her company, to the death of her brother Louie, to finding her prince (Dennis, who else?) and having the "medieval wedding of the century," to Tyrone and Annika's birth. And then ... whew. Everyday, Tessa history is written over and over again as she evolves into her own, glamorous, colorful and lovable self.

Patrick Reyno, Rajo Laurel, Anton San Diego and Philip Romualdez sang songs about friendship and love. Maurice Arcache and Nanette De Leon did a swing. We (me, Leica and Joey Carpo and sis Sandy Romualdez) did a Madonna medley and hosted an awards show—where all of the titles went to ... who else?

Surprise!

Few people in every generation can get away with doing whatever they want. Some do it disgustingly, by abusing power; others distastefully, by flaunting money. Tessa does it charmingly, by exuding style.

Surprises are a big part of her life. She is an expert at putting together parties for friends and relatives. She attends to every detail and makes sure everyone who comes, goes home with lots of prizes.

Guests have learned to dress up for the occasion—it's leadership by example at its best. Tessa goes out of her way to make other people happy. In a way, she is a fairy godmother of generosity, spreading cheer and great vibe with every wave of her wand.

Tim Yap



SURPRISE, surprise!

The fear factor over turning 40 and getting older just does not apply to her. Age is just a number and, in true Tessa form, for her this means the more, the merrier. This year, she organized an "Amazing Race" all over Polo Club, where 80 or so guests went around jogging, riding horses, and drinking vodka (our favorite part), to commemorate this milestone. A sunset luau followed, marked with an abundance of grass skirts and floral wreaths surrounding the most colorful character in the room.

The night before, Guests were asked to come as Tessa at 80. That meant, do the "funky lola" look. Jonjon Rufino came with hair powdered white, and a wheel chair that belonged to his lola Macaria Madrigal De Leon, the original "funky lola."

Tessa shed tears of joy as we all recounted our Tessa moments. "I am so lucky to have friends like you!" Granted. But she should know it's also true the other way around.

We love Tessa at 40 ... and at 80 ... and forever.

THE SEA Princess gets to have her cake and eat it, and share it with others, too!

DENNIS, prince charming with a laptop

THE COLORS OF TATLER, Joji Dingcong, Maurice Arcache, Anton San Diego and Leica Carpo

BLOWING her birthday candle at Resto 12

PHILIP and Sandy Romualdez

TWELVE MEISTER, Ebert Cuenca

RATED B, Raul Manzano

FLOWER POWER, Maan Santos and Angelette Calero

SPEEDY STYLE, Angelo Barretto and Joey Carpo

QUITE COUPLES, Jude and Dianne Aguilar

TWICE THE FUN, Anton Barretto and Anton San Diego

BATTING eyelashes with Maurice Arcache and Patrick Reyno

HIT THE BABY ONE MORE TIME, Leah Purcell and S... ..



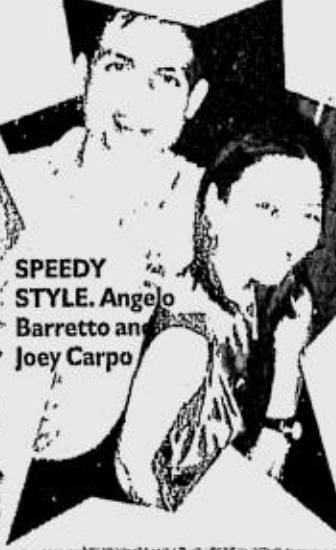
TESSA with Ed Calma at 12



ZIGZAG, Nanette de Leon



HIPPIE GO LUCKY, Jacques Dupasquier



You're Invited!



This week-long launch will leave you Super! exhilarated

1

Day 1: Super! Fun Machine

If you spend your free time queuing up for the latest Hollywood servings, Monday, September 14, is the perfect day for you. We're giving you a choice between two movies--"Legally Blonde 2" and "2 Fast 2 Furious." There will be games and giveaways for added fun. The sooner you get there--that's Greenbelt 3, Cinemas 1 and 2--the better, as there are only 1,000 seats available. Don't be late and don't forget your Super! logo (check out H1). Cocktails by National Sports Grill, will be served starting at 3 p.m.



2

Day 2: Super! Muscle Builder

Are you athletic? Is your gym your second home? Are you ready for a challenge? If you answered yes to these questions, then Day 2 is the day for you. On Sept. 15, Monday, teams of advertisers and Super! young athletes will be competing in fitness games at Play Underground in Powerplant Mall from 6 p.m. onwards. Flex those muscles and start warming up. Super! will push you to the limit. And if you don't think you can conquer the walls, don't fret. You can still join in on the fun. What's a competition without spectators? Cocktails to be served by Dish and Burgo.



3

Day 3: Super! Comedy and Karaoke

Do you enjoy the spotlight? Do you want to be heard? Then Day 3, Tuesday, Sept. 16, is your perfect day. Enjoy the night at I.O. Starting five p.m., you can grab the mic and sing along to your favorite tunes, along with celebrities and Super! advertisers. If singing isn't your thing, hole up at Comfort Room and enjoy quality comedy by Spit starting 8:30. Make sure you get there early. There are only 100 seats available.



4

Day 4: Super! Ghetto Fabulous!

Do you adore Beyoncé, Missy Elliott and 50 Cent? September 17, Wednesday is your day then. Celebrities, readers, R&B fanatics, breakdancers, homeboys and fly girls will be taking over Absinth in Greenbelt 3 for a night to remember.



5

Day 5: Super! X-posed

Are you uninhibited? Do you like getting dirty? Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18, in Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate. Games and prizes await the wild and the willing.

6

For those who crave a posh R&B scene, check out Steve Mills and Paolo Cabalfin at Azzuro at Somerset Hotel, Aguirre St.



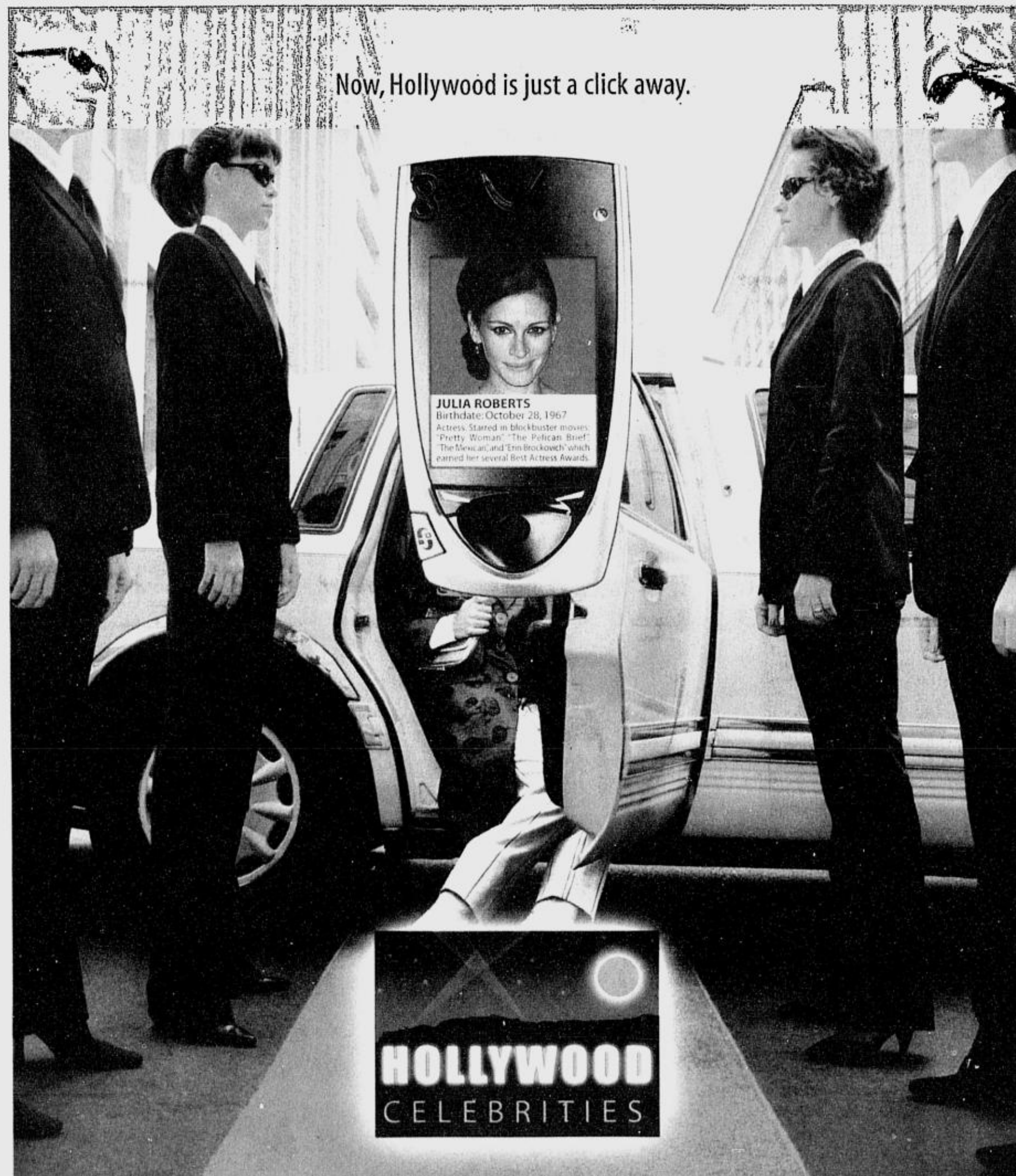
7

Days 6: The Launch of Super!

Feel the beat coursing through your veins on September 19 as Super! brings you a Friday you will never forget. Big Fish and Addict Mobile, Wrangler, Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (among the top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of



Now, Hollywood is just a click away.



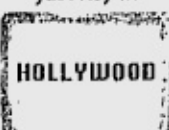
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